

THE JOURNAL

Tuesday, October 31, 2003

50 cents (tax included)

Sports Gauchos getting up to speed after sluggish start in football [C1]

Arts Berkeley Video and Film Festival moves to Cal [C10]



SHERRY LAVARS/STAFF

MARIE EMERSON looks through a chain link fence while waiting to pick up her grandson Oct. 21 from Harding Elementary School in El Cerrito. The fence was put up while construction is being

Schools endure rebuilding pains

■ The waiting is the hardest part for students at Madera and Harding elementary schools

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — There have been difficulties associated with multi-million dollar renovations at Madera and Harding Elementary Schools, though parents and school district officials say it'll be worth it when the upgrades are completed.

That's expected to happen a

year from now, said West County School District engineering officer Bill Savidge.

"It's good for the schools. It'll be good for the kids when it's finished," said Madera parent Manish Doshi.

"It's harder to get in and out and they're changing the classes around," said Madera second-grader Margot Friedman. "And there's not as much room to play, so it's really hard for the students."

Madera and Harding are undergoing combined \$24 million renovations that are rebuilding parts of the schools and upgrading

other buildings. The upgrades include new utilities, roofing, seismic strengthening and more.

Dozens of temporary classrooms and administration rooms have been erected.

Both schools have moved their primary student pick-up and drop-off points. At Harding Elementary School, it has moved south to C Street. The narrow residential block has been accommodating traffic that formerly used Ashbury and Fairmount avenues, both thoroughfares.

That's created problems, said C Street resident Anne De Lov-

infosse. Traffic gridlock during the pick-up times makes the area unsafe for the school's children and is a disturbance to neighbors, she said.

Harding PTA co-president Beth Crespan said the big traffic problems have eased.

"It was a disaster — cars trying to drive up and down C Street," Crespan said. "I think they should've made two entrances instead of just one. Now they did, they opened an entrance off Fairmount (Avenue) which makes a big difference."

See REBUILD, Page A10

Blaze at auto shop probed

Nine hurt after a fire in Albany repair shop owner says you wouldn't get attached to that stuff anyway'

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — Firefighters are investigating the cause of a fire that ripped through a nearly 28-year-old auto repair shop on the block of San Pablo Avenue. Albany firefighters responded to the blaze at Dana Meyer Auto at 8:07 p.m. Tuesday and extinguished it by 9:30 p.m., said Albany fire Capt. John Weitzel. An adjacent building was un-damaged.

Owner Dana Meyer owns another auto repair shop on the 600 block of San Pablo Avenue and continues his business there. He expects to rebuild his original business, the red brick frame which is still standing. "There's nobody injured; it's a bunch of metal," said



ALBANY FIRE BATTALION CHIEF Brian Crudo, left, and Capt. John Weitzel look for clues Tuesday night for the cause of a fire that gutted Dana Meyer Auto Care on San Pablo Avenue in Albany.

Meyer, who lives in an unincorporated area of Richmond.

"I suppose I should say you shouldn't get attached to that stuff anyway. We'll figure out how to make do."

Meyer said he was at the scene of the fire at about 8:10 p.m. and saw flames shooting 36 feet into the air.

Firefighters from Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito and Richmond responded. They focused on preventing the flames from spreading to adjacent buildings after realizing that the auto repair shop could not be saved, Weitzel said. They shot water onto the blaze from the roof of an auto body repair shop next

door.

The cause of the fire is unknown.

"It's just strange," said Ray Vincent, a service writer with Dana Meyer Auto Care who was looking at the wreckage Wednesday. "We still don't know what happened."

While surrounding buildings

appeared by the light of day to be undamaged, the inside of Meyers' shop was gutted, blackened tools resting inside as the smell of burning objects hung in the air.

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com.

Tauscher to speak at Kensington town hall

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

KENSINGTON — Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher will speak about Iraq and her recent trip there during a town hall meeting Saturday, Nov. 1, at the Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave.

TOWN HALL MEETING

WHAT: Annual Kensington town hall meeting sponsored by the Kensington Improvement Club

WHEN: Saturday, Nov. 1, from 10 a.m. to noon

WHERE: Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave.

INFORMATION: Call 510-525-7781

Sponsored annually by the Kensington Improvement Club, the meeting also will feature presentations by several local officials. Attendees will be given time to ask questions.

"It's a wide variety of things and it should be very enjoyable," said Linda Lipscomb, a Kensington Improvement Club board member.

See TOWN HALL, Page A10

Area schools' test scores improve

Nearly two-thirds of schools attain state-specified API targets

By Kara J. Shire
STAFF WRITER

Schools from Richmond to El Cerrito to Albany advanced their standings on the latest round of the Academic Performance Index, with West Contra Costa schools making the greatest strides.

Nearly two-thirds of West Contra Costa's 46 eligible schools met their state-mandated target for the fourth year of the API, which measures students' improvement or failure. Last year, more than half the campuses showed the growth mark.

Verde Elementary School in Richmond, a campus once widely considered a lost cause, made the greatest gains of any school in Contra Costa County. Verde's 123-point jump on the index of school progress was the highest in the state's 6,400-school system. In just four years,

ON THE WEB

Complete API results by school and district are at <http://api.cde.ca.gov/>

Verde students raised their API to 570 from 315, an 81 percent increase.

"Everybody keeps asking me what's the magic bullet," said Verde Principal Janice Banks-Thompson, "and I really think it's the people. I mean, we have things to help us, but if (people) don't have the right attitude to teach the children, it's not going to work. It's teamwork. It's that love of wanting to see the children grow."

The API is the cornerstone of California's accountability system for public schools. Created in 1999, it highlights school improvement or failure through a numeric index that ranges from a low of 200 to a high of 1000. The target score is 800.

The progress made in West Contra Costa schools mirrors statewide gains. Across California, 78 per-

cent of schools met their API targets, a 26-point increase from 2002. To meet the growth target, a school must improve its API score by 5 percent, plus show improvement for each sizable economic, ethnic and educational group.

In Albany, five of the district's six schools exceeded the API's 800-point bar. Albany's districtwide API is in the top 6 percent of California school districts.

In the John Swett school district, John Swett High showed the most improvement, raising its API 51 points to 667. Statewide, high schools improved only slightly, just 24 points to a median API of 668.

The West Contra Costa school district showed the region's most marked improvement.

"We've been waiting to really see it happen and here it is," said Randi Hagen, West Contra Costa's director of accountability. "Everybody here is feeling pretty good."

As a whole, West Contra

See SCORES, Page A10



Tiptoe through the pumpkins

ALBANY RESIDENTS Roxana Andrade and her daughter Rosi, 7, pick out pumpkins for Halloween Oct. 28 at Ray's Pumpkin Patch in Albany.

INSIDE

At the Library

Father's war work leads to visit to the "secret city" of Oak Ridge, Tenn. Page A5

Community Folk

El Cerrito Garden Club show promises to be a delight as always. Page A5



Martin Snapp

Remember when Halloween was all about the neighborhood? Page A3

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NEWS BRIEFS

Albany

Halloween at the Community Center

The Albany Community Center, located at 1249 Marin Ave., will hold a Halloween event for children from 2 to 5 p.m. today. Goodie bags, Halloween decorations, an arts and crafts table, refreshments and games will all be available. Children are encouraged to dress up in costume. For more information, call 510-559-7225.

Brown bag program helps feed seniors

People age 60 or older and on a limited income are eligible to participate in the Mercy Brown Bag Program, which distributes nutritional grocery bags of food to low-income seniors twice monthly. Depending on availability, the bags hold 12 to 15 items, including fresh produce, bread, canned fruit/vegetables, packaged foods and other food items.

A donation of \$10 per year is requested; those unable to contribute are not turned away. Participants can register at the Senior Center the first and third Friday of each month from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. They will need a driver's license or other ID with their address and birth date. The Senior Center is at 846 Masonic Ave. Information: 510-524-9122.

Longer parking hours for the holidays

From Nov. 28 to Dec. 31, drivers will be able to park for two hours instead of one in the spaces along Solano and San Pablo avenues. The Albany Chamber of Commerce requested the longer parking hours to encourage people to shop at Albany merchants during the holidays. The City Council approved the change on Oct. 20.

Join the senior center for Thanksgiving

The Albany Senior Center will hold its annual Thanksgiving dinner on Thursday, Nov. 27 at 3:30 p.m. The price of dinner is \$6 per person and participation is limited to 50. Reservations are required. For information call the center at 510-524-9122.

Contra Costa County

Sheriffs teach 'thrills and skills' driving

The Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff Law Enforcement Training Center is offering a specialized course called "Driving for Thrills and Skills."

Using the Sheriff's department state-of-the-art equipment and professional police instructors, the course is designed for drivers 16 to 25 years old. In the classroom and in hands-on practice, the course covers collision avoidance, threshold braking, emergency lane change and skid-control recovery. The course is held on the police vehicle training track at Buchanan Airport in Concord.

Cost for the eight-hour course is \$175 per person. Class are continuing through November and December. Details: 925-646-5873.

El Cerrito

Haunted house features tailgate party

This year's Recreation Department Haunted House at the Community Center will include a parking lot closed for a Halloween Spookmobile Tailgate Party. Little ghosts, goblins, pirates and fairy princesses will be able to roam the lot to collect treats from the Spookmobiles (participants' decorated cars) from 6 to 8 tonight. The Haunted House will be held from 6:30 to 9 tonight. Admission is \$3. The Community Center is at 7007 Moeser Lane. For more information call the Recreation Department at 510-215-4370.

Garden club meeting also a fund-raiser

The El Cerrito Garden Club will hold its regular meeting Thursday Nov. 13, at 9:30 a.m. at the Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane. This month's meeting is the club's annual fund-raising event. The group supports civic beautification, education and the environment. Floral designers Mary Crowell and Shane Looper will speak and demonstrate flower arrangements. There will be a white elephant sale and crafts, baked goods and herbs for sale, as well as door prizes.

Guests are welcome; admission for them is \$5 at the door. For information call Mae at 510-234-0135 or Marilynne at 510-223-0443.

Tree commission to hold public workshop

The El Cerrito Tree Commission will conduct its second public workshop on Thursday, Nov. 13, 7 p.m., at the Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane. The input will assist the commission in making a recommendation to the Council for a revised tree ordinance. For more information, call 510-215-4382.

Kensington

Violin will take center stage in concert

Donna Lerew, violin, and Skye Atman, piano, will play music by Vivaldi, Mozart, Kreisler, Enesco, and others, accompanied by narrative from actress Donna Davis in "In Love with the Violin," on Friday, Nov. 14 at 8 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington.

Lerew will play her 1786 Gagliano violin in the concert, which is a celebration of the release of their latest CD, "The Story of the Violin" and of the performers' six-year-long partnership.

Admission is \$10-\$15. Details: 510-525-0302 or 510-524-5203.

— compiled by Deborah Byrd

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Neighbors

San Francisco exhibit features local talent

Artists Kana Tanaka of El Cerrito and Adrian Arias of Richmond are featured in an exhibit called "Bringing Light to the Darkness," a Day of the Dead exhibit at SomArts Cultural Center through Sunday, Nov. 2 at SomArts Cultural Center in San Francisco.

The two are among about 70 artists who contributed to the show. The Day of the Dead traditionally is a time to welcome deceased loved ones back to Earth. This exhibit, say organizers, celebrates life and focuses on social issues, exploring themes such as war and peace.

The SomArts Cultural Center is at 934 Brannan St. (between Eighth and Ninth streets), San Francisco. Gallery hours are Tuesday to Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Admission is free; information: www.somarts.org

Albany High School student and Army Reserve Pvt. Eric S. Santos has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. Santos, the son of Ricardo P. Santos and the nephew of Emilio P. Santos, both of Richmond, went through nine weeks of training at Fort Jackson. He studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values and physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice system, basic aid, foot marches and field training exercises.

Albany Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Carter tells us that the chamber will hold a mixer at Springer's Restaurant on Wednesday, Nov. 18 from 5:30 p.m. and a holiday party at Mechanic's Bank on Thursday, Dec. 11. And, he adds, the chamber has a plan for attracting people to Albany for dining and shopping for the holidays. Part of the plan is to light up the town: "Our goal is to get every business, every building, a Solano and San Pablo Avenue to decorate their windows, nearby trees, doorways, inside and out, with clear white lights and other trimmings," he writes in an e-mail. Best-decorated business (based on customers) will



ADRIAN ARIAS/CONTRIBUTED

"SILENCIO ACUMULADO," by Richmond artist Adrian Arias, is a tribute to the women and girls killed and disappeared in Ciudad Juarez. Arias' installation is part of "Bringing Light to the Darkness," a Day of the Dead exhibit at SomArts Cultural Center in San Francisco (see People column for more).

win three months of free advertising in this and other Hills Newspapers.

Visitors to Albany also will hear live music during the holidays and possibly enjoy free shuttle service. Sounds like holiday heaven.

"Just consider this," Carter writes, "Why would anyone shop in a fiberglass mall when they can shop and dine in their home town — in Albany — a place where business serves the community, the community supports small businesses, and everyone will give you the time

of day ...?"

For information on the mixer and the holiday plans, call the Chamber at 510-525-1771.

The black-and-white photographs of Robert Speritus are on display in an exhibit entitled "Panoramic Images of the Western Landscape" at the Albany Community Center Foyer Gallery through Jan. 18.

The large photographs were taken with a moving-lens panoramic camera and include mountain and desert vistas, Se-

quo National Park, Oregon's John Day River, Tilden Park and Mt. Diablo. The gallery is at 1249 Marin Ave., Albany. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-9 p.m. and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturdays. Information: 510-524-9283.

— Deborah Byrd

E-mail items for the People column to: journal@cctimes.com. Or mail to the Journal, 4301 Lakeside Dr., Richmond, CA 94806.

The doorbell will toll for UNICEF tonight

Instead of candy, kids in Kensington and Berkeley will be seeking donations for less-fortunate children abroad.

By Martin Snapp

STAFF WRITER

When Kensington and Berkeley residents open the door to trick-or-treaters tonight, they'll find that those ghosts, goblins and fairy princesses want something else besides candy: They want cold, hard cash. But it's all for a good cause.

A few hundred students from Kensington Hilltop Elementary School will fan out over Kensington, Richmond and San Pablo, together with some even smaller ones from the nearby Neigh-

borhood Pre-School. Another group of youngsters from First Baptist Church in Berkeley will be doing the same in Berkeley.

The children will ask for donations to UNICEF, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund.

"Trick Or Treat For UNICEF" began 53 years ago with a handful of kids in Philadelphia. They raised only \$17 that first year, but the tradition took hold. To date, American children have raised more than \$119 million for their less fortunate counterparts around the world.

"A little donation goes a long way," says volunteer coordinator Martha Olney, whose son Jimmy is a kindergartner at Kensington Hilltop. "Just three cents can buy a child enough vitamin A for a year. Five cents will provide a

year's worth of iodine. One dollar will protect him or her from polio or measles for life."

Olney, an economics professor at UC Berkeley, has been involved with this project, in one way or another, since she was a kid herself. "I grew up in Corte Madera, and one of my earliest memories is yelling, 'Trick or Treat for UNICEF!'" she says.

This is Olney's first year coordinating the program at Kensington Hilltop. She's been doing the same thing for several years at First Baptist Church in Berkeley, where her pastor, Rev. Esther Hargis is pastor. This year, when their son Jimmy enrolled at Kensington Hilltop, she asked who was running the program there.

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2787 or msnapp@cctimes.com.

Make your home—and street—a Halloween haven

HALLOWEEN ISN'T what it was when I was a kid.

I realized that a couple of years ago, when my friend Linda Rogers, who lives in Piedmont, invited me to her house to, as she put it, "watch the parade."

I thought she was talking about an honest-to-goodness parade, with floats and baton twirlers and marching bands. But she was talking about something else: the annual influx of cars and SUVs, packed with kids, driving into Piedmont to go trick-or-treating.

One by one, they pulled up in front of her house, disgorged the kids, and the drivers said, "OK, everybody meet back here in half an hour."

This isn't an only-in-Piedmont phenomenon. In Berkeley, where I live, these caravans are an annual sight on California Street in West Berkeley and Russell Street in the Elmwood.

"We get about a couple of hundred kids every year," says Debby Walton, who lives on California Street. "I have no idea where most of them come from, but I'm glad they at least have somewhere to go."

So am I, but I'm sad that it's come to this. Some holidays, like Thanksgiving, are centered around the home. Others, like Easter or Rosh Hashanah, are centered around the church or synagogue. But only Halloween is centered around the neighborhood.

Remember your own childhood? As your parents watched carefully from a discreet distance, you went door to door, and lo! The familiar houses on the block had been transformed into something magical and spooky.

It usually wasn't much — usually just a crepe paper skeleton on the door and a jack-o'-lantern on the front stoop. But it doesn't take much to transport a child into a fantastical world.

The door would open, and your neighbor — Mrs. Smith or Mr. Jones — would duly pretend to be surprised when they were behind that costume. Then they'd hand you a treat, and you were off to play out the ritual at the next house.

The candy was usually the least of it. Your mom usually threw away half the stuff anyway, because she didn't like the way it was wrapped.



MARTIN SNAPP

Snapp Shots

No, the real fun was the trick-or-treating itself: playing dress up, bonding with your neighbors, and reveling in the delicious scariness of being out after dark.

But all that is lost if it's not your own neighborhood. So why do they do it?

One possible reason is the Willie Sutton factor. (When asked why he robbed banks, he said, "Because that's where the money is.") Maybe some people go to Piedmont or Russell Street simply because the treats are better.

But I suspect they're in the minority. It's a hassle to pile your kids into the car and schlepp them across town; and I'd guess most people take the trouble because their own neighborhoods aren't very kid-friendly.

"On my block you'll see maybe one house out of five with a pumpkin in front, but most of them are dark," says Berkeley's Ellen Lapidus, who drives her children to Russell Street every year. "That's no fun for a little kid."

"But on Russell Street, every house is an adventure. One house looks like a giant jack-o'-lantern every year with the second floor windows as eyes and the ground floor windows and door as a huge grin."

Come to think of it, my own block isn't very kid-friendly either. As I look out my front window, I see only one house with Halloween decorations. No wonder the kids go somewhere else.

I think I'll run to the store and load up on some candy and a pumpkin before tonight. And I urge you to do the same. We need to create mini-communities within our community.

I'm no Hillary Clinton fan, but she really was right about it taking a whole village. Or at least, a whole block.

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2787 or msnapp@cctimes.com.

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"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson

EDITORIAL

Pet-friendly Halloween requires preparation

WHEN WE or our kids dress up and get ready to celebrate Halloween, we need to make sure that it's not a fright night for our pets.

The firecrackers and rockets' red glare of the Fourth of July can't hold a Roman candle to this holiday in which very scary-looking beings come right up to our very doorsteps. We even wonder if a cat or a dog can recognize the masked, cloaked, hooded figures as human (at least before they get a good sniff) — let alone humans with only the innocent intention to score as many grams of pure sugar as possible.

When you think of it, most of us get relatively few people coming to the door compared to the days when mothers stayed home and the neighborhood children ran in and out, not to mention the various businesses that made home deliveries.

Now it's the mail, and maybe, once in a while, a UPS delivery, or people spreading the news about their religion of choice, or selling security systems.

But on Halloween, we set out the jack-o'-lanterns, turn on the porch light (maybe adding a few orange strings of Halloween lights for good measure), assign someone to answer the door and hand out candy.

As we all know, our pets are individuals with their own personalities. Most cats seem to want to hide in a back room until it's all over, and some dogs are mellow enough to take it all in stride as long as their humans telegraph that everything's OK.

But there are precautions we should take, say veterinarians and other animal experts, to keep our more high-strung pets safe and to keep trick-or-treaters safe from a frightened bite or scratch. And some measures are good for all animals.

Keep pets away from jack-o'-lanterns and candles that might be knocked over and start a fire.

A back room kept quiet is a good place for high-strung cats or dogs. Outside cats should be brought in for the night — especially black cats.

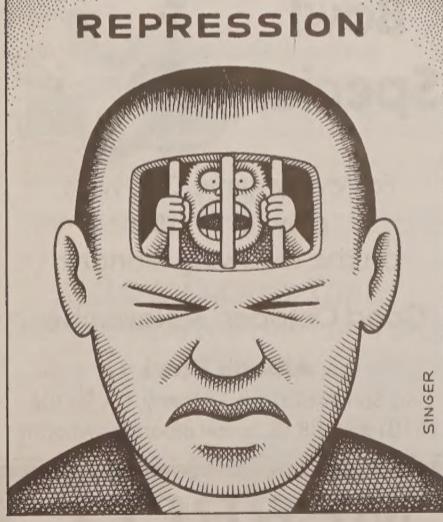
Animals in costume? Bad idea unless your pet's already used to it. If you must, make sure the costume doesn't interfere with your pet's ability to walk, see or eat. And don't use rubber bands to secure a costume part on any of your pet's parts; they cut off circulation and also pull fur.

Make sure pets have collars and ID tags so that if they do get panicked and run away, there's a better chance of recovering them.

When the candy haul comes in, make sure it's out of pets' reach. Chocolate can poison animals. And candy wrappers can be harmful if pets swallow them; make sure they're thrown away in the outside garbage or other receptacle animals can't access.

NO EXIT

© Andy Singer



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Cities

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Albany: City offices, 1000 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-528-5710.

Kensington: Fire Protection District 217 Arlington Blvd, 510-527-8395

Police Protection and Community Services District 217 Arlington Blvd, 510-526-4141

School board members

West Contra Costa Unified School District: Karen Leong Fenton, school board president: 510-236-8460

Albany Unified School District: 510-558-3766

By Mark Friedman
EL CERRITO MAYOR

As a result of the state budget crisis, El Cerrito faces some critical decisions about our budget and the level of services we can provide. We pride ourselves on the provision of comprehensive, high-quality services. Unfortunately, these services are in jeopardy.

The city has recently been required to pay nearly \$500,000 to the state to help it solve its budget problem. Additionally, the City Council recently repealed El Cerrito's longstanding real property transfer tax, which has resulted in the loss of approximately \$900,000 annually.

Finally, the governor-elect has pledged to repeal the Vehicle License Fee ("car tax"), which is used to fund local government services. The city receives about \$1.3 million annually from this fee; most of it is used to pay for police, fire and

parks and recreation services.

Currently, all El Cerrito households pay a utility users tax (UUT) of 8 percent on your electricity, telephone, gas and cable TV bills. While this is a small amount per household (about \$15 per month), the UUT generates approximately 13 percent of the city's general fund budget: \$2.2 million per year. These funds go directly to vital city services such as police protection, prompt fire and medical response, street, park and sidewalk maintenance, comprehensive recreation, after-school and senior programs.

The UUT was first implemented by the El Cerrito City Council in 1992. At that time, state law allowed cities to institute such a tax. However, a California Supreme Court decision later ruled otherwise and now, to maintain the UUT, it must be approved by a majority public vote.

For that vote to occur, the City Council must first agree to put the issue on the ballot. If the tax is not placed on the ballot and then passed by El Cerrito voters, the city cannot continue to collect it.

At the City Council meeting on Monday, we will discuss the issue of when the tax should be placed on the ballot and the consequences to services of no longer having those funds.

I encourage all citizens to attend this meeting and learn exactly what is at stake.

If the City Council agrees to place the UUT on the ballot, it is important to remember that this will not be an election for a new or increased tax. It is only a vote to maintain the existing UUT at its 1992 level to comply with the Supreme Court ruling.

If the UUT is discontinued, it will affect many aspects of our lives here in El Cerrito. Because we are a small, predominantly residential city, our City Council does not have many resources for replacing these funds. City funds are generated through sales and property taxes, though most of that money goes to Sacramento and covers a portion of city expenses. These are facts led the council, like those many other California cities, to institute the utility user tax.

If the council places the UUT on the ballot, the outcome will ultimately be yours. Will we continue the tax, or eliminate it completely? If it is eliminated, how would it affect the city and its residents?

The City Council needs to hear of the financial implications to the city, as well as views of you and other residents. That's why we want to hear the facts and from the dedicated city members responsible for ensuring the essential services are used to receiving.

JEFF HANSEN • HILLS NEWSPAPERS

IT'S HALLOWEEN PARTY TIME

I'M GOING AS AN EX-GOVERNOR.



I'M GOING AS AN EX-TERMINATOR.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Iraq costs

The patriotism that has inspired our noble senators and representatives to donate our tax money (more than \$100 billion of it: Is anything left?) with such willingness to pay for our continuing to bring peace and serenity to Iraq, cannot but warm our hearts and fill us with awe.

However, a news item the other day about the cost of war, brought home to us all the fact that some of us pay even higher costs. The article contained a wrenching account of how a woman had received notification that her son had been killed.

That is one immense price to pay, and one wonders how many of our senators and representatives have paid that price since the time they authorized the invasion and occupation of Iraq.

If we lived in some corrupt country, only the peasants would suffer personal loss in a war, while the leaders got richer and fatter at home. Thank God that is not the case here. But we should not keep secret the losses of our leaders, lest we get the wrong impression.

Frederick Shaw

El Cerrito

might be well to examine the approach they took to leaving more in their citizens' pockets.

They adopted the following questions about spending proposals:

- Show evidence that a problem really exists.

- Show evidence that government activity will solve this problem.

- Show how much this activity will cost.

- Show how much the benefit will be that will arise from solving this problem.

- What is the date when the problem will have been eliminated and spending on it will no longer be needed?

Our state Legislature would do well to adopt this method.

George Amberg

El Cerrito

Discussion necessary

Along with a complete revision of the zoning code, the city of Albany planning and zoning commission and city staff are proposing changes to the land-use element of the city's general plan, which will re-designate eight blocks of Kains Avenue and Adams Street from residential to commercial.

This is no small matter to be presented to the residents as already decided in our best interests! It is of great concern to the neighborhood and should require far more input from all the residents of our city.

HOW TO REACH US

Letters to the editor reflect the opinion of the writer. Letters must include your first and last name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to verification. All letters are subject to editing for brevity and style. Not all letters may be published.

MAIL: 4301 Lakeside Drive,

Richmond, CA 94530

FAX: 510-644-1735

E-MAIL: journal@cctimes.com

Lack of funds?

I read with disgust the letters to the editor regarding the West Contra Costa school district and the lack of money for basic necessities such as soap, glue, programs, etc.

My children attend at the elementary school level and they had no funds for rubber playground balls for recess. A teacher (wishes listed) came home the first week of school from the teachers asking for donations of glue sticks, tissue, soap, etc.

Edward Field

Maureen Crowley

Albion

COMMENTARY

Let Council know your views on utility users tax

By Mark Friedman

EL CERRITO MAYOR

As a result of the state budget crisis, El Cerrito faces some critical decisions about our budget and the level of services we can provide. We pride ourselves on the provision of comprehensive, high-quality services. Unfortunately, these services are in jeopardy.

The city has recently been required to pay nearly \$500,000 to the state to help it solve its budget problem. Additionally, the City Council recently repealed El Cerrito's longstanding real property transfer tax, which has resulted in the loss of approximately \$900,000 annually.

Finally, the governor-elect has pledged to repeal the Vehicle License Fee ("car tax"), which is used to fund local government services. The city receives about \$1.3 million annually from this fee; most of it is used to pay for police, fire and

parks and recreation services.

Currently, all El Cerrito households pay a utility users tax (UUT) of 8 percent on your electricity, telephone, gas and cable TV bills. While this is a small amount per household (about \$15 per month), the UUT generates approximately 13 percent of the city's general fund budget: \$2.2 million per year. These funds go directly to vital city services such as police protection, prompt fire and medical response, street, park and sidewalk maintenance, comprehensive recreation, after-school and senior programs.

The UUT was first implemented by the El Cerrito City Council in 1992. At that time, state law allowed cities to institute such a tax. However, a California Supreme Court decision later ruled otherwise and now, to maintain the UUT, it must be approved by a majority public vote.

For that vote to occur, the City Council must first agree to put the issue on the ballot. If the tax is not placed on the ballot and then passed by El Cerrito voters, the city cannot continue to collect it.

At the City Council meeting on Monday, we will discuss the issue of when the tax should be placed on the ballot and the consequences to services of no longer having those funds.

I encourage all citizens to attend this meeting and learn exactly what is at stake.

If the City Council agrees to place the UUT on the ballot, it is important to remember that this will not be an election for a new or increased tax. It is only a vote to maintain the existing UUT at its 1992 level to comply with the Supreme Court ruling.

If the UUT is discontinued, it will affect many aspects of our lives here in El Cerrito. Because we are a small, predominantly residential city, our City Council does not have many resources for replacing these funds. City funds are generated through sales and property taxes, though most of that money goes to Sacramento and covers a portion of city expenses. These are facts led the council, like those many other California cities, to institute the utility user tax.

Library branch helps tell story of 'secret city'



SHERRY LAVARS/STAFF

Hot weather homecoming

EL CERRITO High School freshman king Anthony Hill sips an ice cold Slurpee on an unusually hot fall day while riding with freshman queen Lamontiasa Butchor during the school's annual homecoming parade on Friday, Oct. 24. Below, seniors yell to the crowd while riding their Mardi Gras-themed float down Ashbury Avenue.



SHERRY LAVARS/STAFF

EL CERRITO HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

El Cerrito High School

NOV. SOCCER FUND RAISER: Today—Oct. 31—is the last day of the fun-raising event sponsored by Pasta Pomodoro (\$504 El Cerrito Plaza). Pasta Pomodoro will donate \$1 for each entree ordered (excluding items from the children's menu). When you eat at the restaurant, simply give your waiter a "Pasta Partner" card which designates the EC High Boys Soccer Program as the organization it will donate to. Only one card is needed for your entire party. This is good on take outs. Cards are available in the school office or from Eric Mishima at 510-234-0400. Pass the cards on to your friends and family.

SPANISH 4 CONTINUES: Ms. Quine reports that the Spanish 4 Honors class that was scheduled to end today will continue through January.

INFORMATION NIGHT: Volunteers are needed to help on Information Night for incoming ninth-graders, Thursday, Nov. 6 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. This is the event where parents of

prospective students learn about El Cerrito High and tour the school. Volunteers are needed to set up from 5 to 5:45 p.m., or be available during refreshments to chat with parents of incoming ninth-graders from 8 to 8:30 p.m. or help clean up after refreshments, from 8:30 to 9 p.m. Anyone interested in helping out should call the PTA volunteer coordinator at 510-215-2798 or e-mail rossshan@pacbell.net.

PAGETURNERS: El Cerrito's book club, Pageturners, will meet on Wednesday, November 19 at 7 p.m. in room 604. Everyone—students, teachers, parents, siblings—is invited. Newcomers are always welcome.

For the November meeting the club will be reading "Revenge: A Story of Hope" by Laura Blumenthal. The book will be available at Bookends Books on Colusa (at the Kensington Circle) and from Paula Gooker in room 604 at a 10 percent discount beginning next Tuesday or Wednesday. If you have questions or want more information call 510-524-9560.

Quote of the week:
"Books are the carriers of civilization. Without books, history is silent, literature dumb, science crippled, thought and speculation at a standstill."

—Barbara Tuchman, 1912-1989

I WAS IN Tennessee recently and, as I was studying the road map, I suddenly realized we were going to be close to Oak Ridge, Tenn. I have a personal connection to Oak Ridge because my father was part of the original federal program, known as the Manhattan Project, and he worked there for a few years, starting in 1944. I couldn't resist the chance to see a little of my father's history, so we headed there.

I had no idea if there would be anything left to look at, but we followed signs and finally ended up near a huge old building that I knew immediately must be what we were seeking. When we emerged from the car, a man with a Bechtel badge hanging around

JULIE WINKELSTEIN
At the Library

his neck greeted us with the words "This is the public entrance is over there," pointing away from us, but he turned out to be full of information and quite affable about sharing it. The building known as K-25 was where my dad worked and it is slowly, due to environmental concerns, being torn down, with a goal date of 2008.

As he talked, I started thinking about how little I really knew about this "secret city," as it has been called, and so our next stop was the local library, where I was sure I could find all the information I wanted. And I was right: the very friendly librarian there showed me the Oak Ridge Room, with files of newspaper clippings and books all about

the project and the incredible secrecy around it. And when I asked if there were still residents who had been in Oak Ridge during the war, she pointed out a couple, who spent about 20 minutes with me, sharing their memories.

One of the best written sources of information was a book called "Celebrate Oak Ridge, A Chronology of the Atomic City: 1942-1998." It includes pages from "The Oak Ridger," the local newspaper, and devotes one page to each year. Ed Westcott writes the one for 1942, and in it he describes the local legend from 1900 "when a voice told John Hendrix to sleep with his head on a rock near his house on Pine Ridge and he would be empowered with visions of future developments in his community." According to the story, he then predicted much of what came about—the huge buildings, the importance of Oak Ridge in the war, the thousands of people arriving, and more.

Thomas F.X. McCarthy

wrote the piece for 1945 and he reminisces about Oak Ridge—what people did for recreation, the mud, the rationing and his work. But what interested me most was his description of Aug. 6, 1945—the day most people in Oak Ridge learned that the plants so quickly built and so carefully kept secret, and that required "about 10 percent of all the electric power generated in the United States" were providing the materials for the atomic bomb.

READER REVIEW: This week's book review is from Katie and the book is J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban." This fantasy is about "Harry Potter and his innocent godfather who is locked up in jail." One word Katie would use to describe this book is "breath-taking" and she recommends it because "it is fun for people of all ages."

Reach librarian Julie Winkelstein at jwinkelstein@aclib.org or at the Albany Library.

LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

Toddler Times — storytimes for children ages 24 to 36 months, are coming back to the **Albany Library**. The new series runs Nov. 10 through Dec. 15, Monday afternoons at 3 p.m. Call soon for sign ups: 510-526-3720 (children's desk).

Also at Albany: People 55 and older can find out more about Elderhostel when Judie Fernandez, Elderhostel Ambassador, comes to speak, show slides and answer questions about the Elderhostel program. Literature will be available and refreshments are provided courtesy of the Albany

Friends of the Library on Thursday, Nov. 13 at 2 p.m.

As part of the Alameda County Library, the **Albany Library**, celebrates Children's Book Week Plus Nov. 3-26. The Children's Book Council created Children's Book Week to encourage children, and the adults who care for them, to make time each day with a favorite book.

Book lovers can also check out the libraries' "Challenge Page" at www.aclibrary/kidspalace. Click on "Children Book Week Plus," unscramble the titles of well-known children's

books and win a prize. The Albany Library is located at 1247 Marin Ave. and is a branch of the Alameda County Library. Information: 510-526-3720 ext 20.

At the **El Cerrito Library**, learn the basics of the online world at the library's beginning Internet workshops. Practice computer mouse skills, set up e-mail, search the Web, locate library materials in the online catalog, and find the information you need in the library's databases. The workshops are held

on alternating Saturday mornings from 10 to 11 a.m.

Call 510-526-7512 to sign up. The El Cerrito Library is located at 6510 Stockton Ave.

The **Kensington Library** holds Family Storytimes for all ages on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. (except when special programs are scheduled). The Kensington Library is at 61 Arlington Ave., Kensington, CA 94707-1098. Phone: 510-524-3043

ALBANY PTA NEWS

Albany PTA Council

Nov. 14-17, Cody's Fundraiser, Telegraph and Fourth Street stores in Berkeley, 15 percent of your purchases will go to your school's PTA, bring receipts to office.

Albany High School

Receive announcements by e-mail. Contact Linda Okamoto at lotpnm@earthlink.net

Nov. 3, PTA Meeting, 7 p.m., AHS Library

Nov. 6, Instructional Improvement Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., Asst. Prin. Conf. Rm.

Albany Middle School

Receive the daily bulletin and announcements by e-mail. Frances Santiago at santiagofrances@hotmail.com

Nov. 3, Principal's Coffee, 8 a.m., AMS Room 115

Nov. 6, PTA Meeting, 7 p.m., AMS Library Scrip Orders: Call Dorothy Brown at 510-524-3123 or e-mail: dorothyhmc@yahoo.com

Cornell Elementary School

Receive announcements by e-mail.

Contact Barbara Grady-Ayer at gradyayer@ao.com

Scrip Orders: Call Marlene Priven 510-526-4902 e-mail: privwest@pacbell.net

Marin Elementary School

Receive announcements by e-mail.

Contact Kym Steiner at kymsteiner@earthlink.net

Scrip Orders: Call Helene Class at 510-526-4902 e-mail: h.class@att.net

Paper Scrip for sale in the office Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8:30 a.m. and Monday and Friday at 9:30 a.m.

Nov. 11, Veterans' Day (NO SCHOOL) THANKS to Albany SchoolCARE (an independent fundraising organization) for their ongoing efforts to sell SCRIP benefiting Albany PTAs.

Attention: Online Shoppers. Support Albany Schools by going to www.schoolpop.com or www.schoolcash.com to access 125 merchants. Also, don't forget to support your local merchants who support Albany schools!

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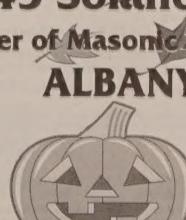
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Calendar

ROM PAGE A6

YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way; 848-6370; \$8-\$10.

Lecture/workshop

The Berkeley Camera Club meets every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Share your slides and prints and learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. Don, 510-525-3565 or www.berkeley-cameraclub.org.

Tai Chi Chuan and Chi-kung classes at Berkeley Unitarian Church at 7 p.m. on Wednesday evenings and 9 a.m. Saturday mornings at Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St. People of all ages and physical conditions are welcome to practice. Donation: \$65. 268-4995.

The Reading Edge is available for public use at the Berkeley Public Library, 2090 Kittredge St. This computer scans printed text and reads it back aloud with a synthesized voice. It's available for anyone with a disability that requires its use to access print material. Users must complete a brief training session before using the Reading Edge; after that, reservations are needed. 644-6648.

The YWCA offers free orientations of its Turning Point Center, 2600 Bancroft Way. The orientations outline the resources available to the public as well as the different things that the center has to offer such as a great variety of workshops. They are held every Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. 848-6370.

Learn computer applications for the "world" Using Windows 95 and '98 and Microsoft Office 2000 software, Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, Publisher. Class offered: Monday-Friday, 2:15-6:15 p.m. Location: Contra Costa County Office of Education, 13925 San Pablo Ave., Suite No. 111, San Pablo. 237-0840 or www.cccoe.k12.ca.us/rop.

Emotions Anonymous: 12-Step meetings every Sunday at 8 p.m. Call 236-8226 for Berkeley location.

Literary events

Poets Utah Phillips, Paul Foreman and Pack Browning will read from their poetry in a benefit for the Berkeley Foundation for the Arts and ACCI Gallery at 8 p.m. Nov. 1, at the ACCI Gallery, 1652 Shattuck, Berkeley. Tickets are \$10. 510-843-2527 or visit www.acgall.com.

Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., presents poetry events: First Thursdays include Open Mike and Featured Poet sessions from 7 to 9 p.m. Second Wednesdays are drop-in Poetry Writing

Workshops, for all ages. Second Saturdays are drop-in Poetry Writing Workshops for grades 4-8. All three events are free and on-going. Light refreshments will be served. Julie Winkelstein, 510-526-3720 ext. 20.

Storytelling for Adults, a group of storytellers, and listeners, who love to listen to stories, to keep the oral tradition alive, meet from 7 to 8:45 p.m. on the first Thursday each month at the Claremont Branch, Berkeley Public Library, 1940 Berekeley, at Ashby. Free. 610-648-6880; or 525-1533.

The Jewish Humanistic Congregation, with all ages at the Albany Community Center, 901 Marin Ave. No experience required. Wear comfortable shoes and come prepared for a good time. Admission: Adults \$2, kids \$1. 525-1130.

Chill Night Folk Dancing: 8 p.m. now through Oct. 31. No partner necessary for line dancing. Drop-in for fun good time. Details: 632-3711.

Folldancing takes place the first Friday, 1-3 p.m. at Ashkenaz

and Dance Community Center, 1201 Pablo Ave. Instructor: Denise Weis. Bring your feet and a smile. No experience necessary. Drop-in. Details: 632-3711.

Dance Classes! Learn East Asian and Lindy Hop at Shagtime Studio, 2565 Telegraph Ave. Beginning Lindy Hop runs 8:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. East Coast Swing from 7 p.m. and beginning Lindy Hop 8 p.m. on Tuesdays. At The 250 Ninth St. Classes run as a series. Details: Michael Maran 528-7858.

Health

Marie Tooth support group meets bimonthly at West Valley Library, 1125 University Ave. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. CMT is a neuro-muscular disorder. Details: 524-3506.

UC Health and Community Education classes in dance, fitness, martial arts and more; University

KOL HADASH presents its annual "bar/bat mitzvah program" monthly & family shabbats "holiday celebrations" life-cycle events "special programs" P.O. Box 1471, El Cerrito, CA 94530. Most events at Albany Community Center. Info: 510-428-1492.

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a picnic at the adjacent Hillside Community Park before attending. Admission: \$15. You can pay via credit card using PayPal; your "shipping address" will act as confirmation at the door. Tickets at www.newthoughtunity.org.

The El Cerrito Toastmasters offers basic public speaking and leadership activities and programs. Speakers of all skill levels are invited to come, observe and participate. Meetings occur every second and fourth Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane. E-mail Jim Bruce at jim@peachpit.com.

Kol Hadash, the Bay Area's only Jewish Humanistic Congregation, with more than 110 family members from around the Bay Area, meets on the fourth Friday of each month for a regular Shabbat (Sabbath), every other month on a Saturday for a Family Shabbat. The group holds Sunday school classes two Sundays a month, celebrates all the major Jewish holidays and holds special events from time to time. Location: Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave. 428-1492.

Lawrence Hall of Science, presents a Sweet Health Festival from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 9. Learn about the practical uses of sugar such as disinfecting wounds and rehydrating tissues. Meet Bob's Mouth and become a Sugar Sleuth as you learn how to stay healthy and enjoy your sugar too with these hands-on activities and demonstrations.

Admission: \$8.50 for adults; \$6.50 for youth 5-18, seniors, and disabled; \$4.50 for children 3-4. Free for children under 3, LHS Members, and full-time UC Berkeley students. LHS is on Centennial Drive - above the UC Berkeley campus and just below Grizzly Peak Blvd. LHS is 50¢ per half hour; \$3 for four hours, and \$5 all day. LHS is accessible by AC Transit and the UC Berkeley Shuttle. 510-642-5132 or visit www.lawrencehallofscience.org.

St. John's Prime Timers in Berkeley offers ongoing classes at 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays at St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave. Classes include exercises, ceramics, copper enameeling, woodworking, weaving, creative writing, and tap dancing (Thursdays). New members are always welcome, especially seniors over 50. Call 545-6830 for more information.

Miscellany

UC Botanical Garden expert Chris Carmichael, will conduct a walk exploring the garden's rich collection of gymnosperms—a diverse assemblage of cone-bearing plants—10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Nov. 8. This tour will examine familiar cone bearers such as pines and redwoods, in addition to the palm-like cycads and unusual and obscure plants such as ephedra and Welwitschia. Fee \$20; free to members. Space is limited; registration required. UC Botanical Gar-

den, 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley. 510-643-2937 or janetw@uclink4.berkeley.edu or visit www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu/.

Jazzschool, 2087 Adel St. in Berkeley, presents solos, duos and trios with **Bruce Williamson** and **Andre Bush** at 4:30 p.m. Sun. Nov. 2. Admission: \$18, \$15, \$12, 510-845-5373 or e-mail swing@jazzschool.com or visit the Web site at www.jazzschool.com.

Outdoors

The UC Berkeley Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive, Strawberry Canyon, offers a **free** **sick plant clinic** on the first Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. to noon. Dr. Raabe will diagnose. Details: 643-2755.

Learn to feed and care for orphaned baby birds: house sparrows, starlings and pigeons are introduced species that are not afforded care by rehabilitation groups. You can make an important contribution in returning these species to the wild life they deserve to have. Free training and some supplies. Call Myrna 531-3042 or Lelia 665-3911.

East Bay Regional Park Botanical Garden Tilden Park, presents regular tours, seven days a week. Week days 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, and Sundays 2 p.m. Special tours by appointment. Call 841-8732. For a schedule of upcoming classes call 925-820-1021.

Warehouse/Annex Auction

Monday, November 3rd, 11am

Previews: Sunday, Nov. 2nd, 9am-4pm & Day of Sale at 9am

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subject to
conditions

Save Gas

Save Electric

Nightmare on your street

THE OTHER DAY I got immersed in an issue of the movie magazine Pre-miere, after I'd powered through, you know, the latest Utne Reader and Co-evolution Quarterly.

I stumbled upon an article in which Ken Kirzinger, the guy who plays Jason Voorhees in the slash-'em-up pas de deux "Freddy vs. Jason," makes his picks for the Top 10 greatest horror films of all time.

I won't leave you dangling. They are:

10. "The Sixth Sense"



ROBERT MENZIMER
Life is a Movie

9. "Sleepy Hollow"
8. "Alien"
7. "The Abominable Dr. Phibes"
6. "Creature from the Black Lagoon"
5. "An American Werewolf

in London"

4. "The Fly" (1958 version)

3. "A Nightmare on Elm Street"

2. "Jaws."

And his #1 greatest horror movie of all time ... "The Texas Chain Saw Massacre."

Robert Englund plays Freddy Krueger, Jason's worthy opponent in "Freddy vs. Jason." (If, like me, you have trouble keeping your cinematic mass murderers straight, Freddy is the one who needs to get over to Solano Avenue immediately for a manicure.)

In the same article, Englund is asked to name the perfect horror movie and I thought he drove a stake right into the

heart of the matter when he picked "Rosemary's Baby," an excellent thriller for any day of the year, really, with the possible exception of Easter Sunday.

In this one, Mia Farrow plays a young wife who wants to get pregnant in the worst way, and does. Subsequently, she goes through the C-section from Hell, thereby topping every delivery room story you've ever told your book group. In case you haven't seen the movie, I won't give away who the father is, but let's just say he's not the leader of your son's Boy Scout troop — at least not that I know of.

Maybe you've had the squirmy experience of gazing at

a friend's (or worse, your sister's) newborn, thinking that the precious bundle actually looks a little like your Halloween pumpkin on about Nov. 17, and groping for something sunny to say.

Imagine your predicament if the baby were Rosemary's. I suppose you could always fall back on, "He has his father's eyes," which is, in fact, what one of the adoring warlocks says at the end of the movie as everyone stands around the fashionably black-draped cradle at the big birthday party, swirling the olives in their vodka martinis.

I think "Rosemary's Baby" is one of director Roman Polanski's best, so thumbs (or pick the severed appendage of your choice) up from me on that choice.

To find out what the rest of Albany thinks, I walked up Solano to the town meeting hall, sometimes erroneously called Five Star Video. I found Mike behind the counter, and I asked him to name the biggest Haloween attractions in the shop. "Well, the original 'Hal-

'oween' is number one replied. "And the other that's always checked out is 'The Exorcist.' He asked him to name the movie he'd ever seen that knows his flicks, so I ears, and happy that he attac-

"Texas Chain Saw Sacre," he replied. "It has the wrong idea about movie. Very little blood."

True, and a nice one of many chainsaws, to the urban lumberj-

El Cerrito Garden Club plans a show 'For All Seasons'

THE EL CERRITO Garden Club's garden show and fund-raising event is an annual delight. This year's will be held on Thursday, Nov. 13, and its theme is "For All Seasons."

It's not just for flower-lovers, but also for anyone interested in the things the Garden Club supports: civic beautification, education and the environment.

Club president Mae Ritz told me the group was started in 1957 by Seaview Drive residents who called themselves the Seaview Spaders. As it grew, the name was changed to the El Cerrito Garden Club and membership was opened to anyone interested in gardening.

She and Marilynne Mellander, the club's publicity chairwoman, noted that the show's floral design program will feature presentations by Mary Crowell and Shana Looper of Peninsula business Furyu Designers, and the Bay Area Arrangers Guild, a popular organization that meets in the Marin Art and Garden Center. Crowell and Looper, they report, are talented arrangers and teachers of that art.

Marilynne and Mae said that even people who do not have gardens like to come and hear



CLARA-RAE GENSER
Community Folk

IF YOU GO

WHO: El Cerrito Garden Club

WHAT: For All Seasons garden show and fund-raiser

WHERE: El Cerrito Community Center, at 7007 Moeser Lane

WHEN: Thursday, Nov. 13, from 9:30 a.m. to about noon

INFORMATION: 510-234-0135 or 510-223-0443.

the speakers, and browse the monthly plant table, which feature member-grown plants for sale at very low prices. They also enjoy the study groups that meet in members' homes, such as the succulent group and the flower arranging group.

Club members also make table arrangements for community functions, and work on city beautification. They sponsor the

Sundar Shadi Garden Contest, named for the man who for years maintained a glorious garden and Christmas display on the grounds of his Arlington Boulevard home.

They also plant trees on Arbor Day in the El Cerrito Foundation's Memorial Grove ("We always need volunteers for this"), and one of their sayings is "all the dirt that's fit to dig."

The group also gives a scholarship every year. Last year it extended aid to help disabled young people going to Contra Costa College get used to working with plants, and help them to be independent. This is part of the Contra Costa College's Transition Program.

I asked about their interest in gardens. Marilynne says her specialty is rhododendrons, which she keeps in pots on her deck so gophers can't get to them. When she retired she wanted to meet new people, heard about the club and joined.

"I have always been interested in plants and flowers," she says. "I love working in the dirt. It is so therapeutic."

Mae Ritz, a recent subject of this column, talked of looking for plants resistant to deer. She, too,

has long been interested in gardens and plants, and loves indoor plants such as gesnerias, African violets, and so on.

"The Garden Club has 108 members," from all over the East Bay: Kensington, Berkeley, El Cerrito, Richmond, Marin, Pinole and El Sobrante, they told me. "You just have to like to be in the garden."

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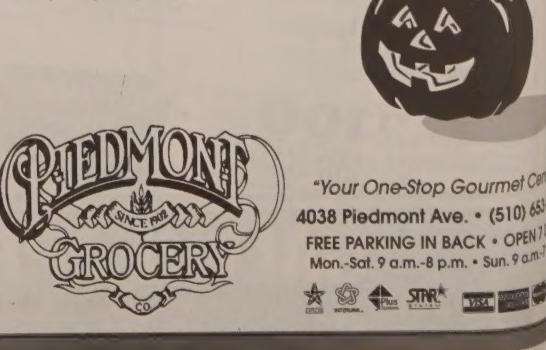
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After, I'd powered through, you know, the latest Utne Reader and Co-evolution Quarterly.

I stumbled upon an article in which Ken Kirzinger, the guy who plays Jason Voorhees in the slash-'em-up pas de deux "Freddy vs. Jason," makes his picks for the Top 10 greatest horror films of all time.

I won't leave you dangling.

They are:

10. "The Sixth Sense"

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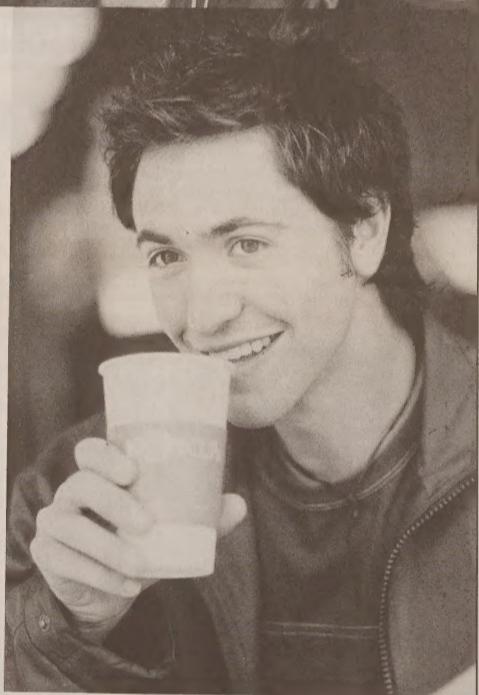
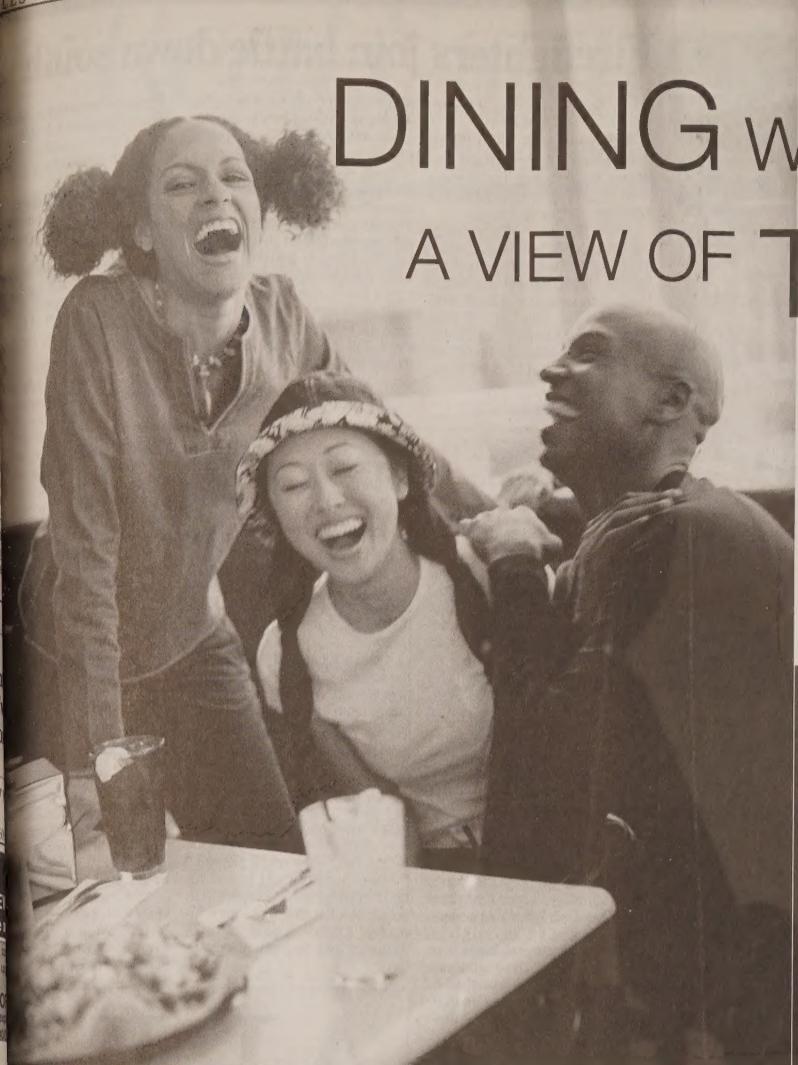
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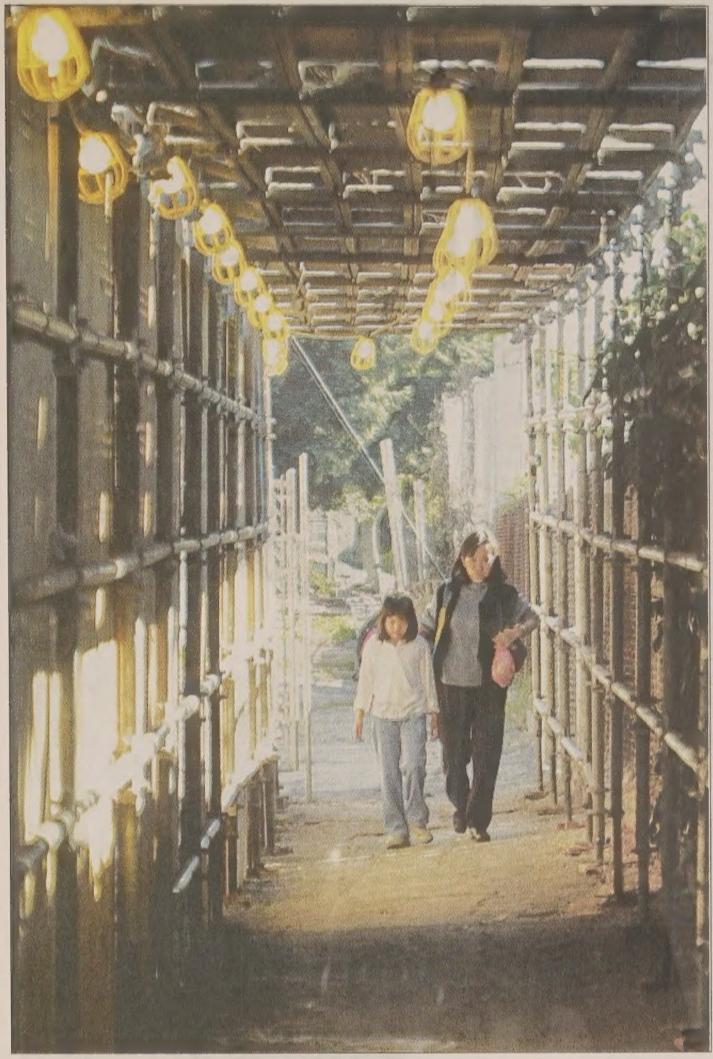
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DELILAH CHAN escorts her daughter, third-grader Chelsea Chan, through a tunnel walkway that serves as a safe entrance from Fairmount Avenue past construction work to Harding School.

Rebuild

FROM PAGE A1

There was a community meeting in October to address neighborhood concerns, Crespan added, but only two people showed up.

At Madera, principal Gail Smith said the school was coping, despite changes in traffic

patterns and loss of play area for students.

"I just think everybody is coping very well with the changes including the children," said Madera principal Gail Smith. "Some wrinkles need to be ironed out, but that's happening."

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or at alopez1@cttimes.com.

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Campus Ministry & Student Leadership

Southern California has Capt. Henderson left to act as a communicationist in San Bernardino.

Jorgenson said he expects Albany firefighters to act this weekend, with fire to replace them.

The two groups were firefighters called by the County Office of Emergency and the Department of Fire Protection, said.

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-3578 or alopez1@cttimes.com

an API of 612. "Our school is excellent," Chavez Principal Muñoz said. "At the same time we have students who are performing, so it's impressive. The scores strategies we've implemented are having an impact."

Back at Verde, Beeson offered a similar update.

"We surprised all of us," she said. "It took a concerted effort, a lot of hard work, and we have a lot more hard work to do."

Also giving presentation will be Contra Costa County Supervisor John Morrissey, West Contra Costa County board member Glen Phillips, Chief Barry Garfield, Kensington community district president, McLaughlin; and Kensington Protection District Board of Scott or a representative.

Firefighters join battle down south

By Alan Lopez

STAFF WRITER

Nine firefighters from the El Cerrito and Albany fire departments have joined firefighters from around the state to battle the Southern California blazes.

From El Cerrito, Capt. Larry Carr; Capt. Marvin Mears, engineer Rune Hoyer-Nielsen, firefighter David Garrett and Capt. Hugh Henderson have been sent.

Albany has sent Capt. Dusty Wiggins, paramedic engineer Chris Sillers, paramedic/firefighter Brett Schlueter and Lt. Brad Windring.

"They are actively fighting fire

now," said El Cerrito fire battalion chief John Dourey earlier this week. "They do reportedly call in with updates."

Each group has been sent with one fire engine to form "strike teams" with four similar groups. The El Cerrito firefighters are fighting the Grand Prix blaze in San Bernardino County. The Albany firefighters are fighting the Cedar fire in San Diego County.

"I think that's the one that has seen the most action," Albany fire Capt. Jay Jorgenson said of the Cedar fire. "They're in a strike team seeing the worst of it."

The firefighters traveled to

Scores

FROM PAGE A1

Costa's districtwide API still ranks in the bottom quarter of the state's 1,025 school districts.

But West Contra Costa's scores are improving, largely because the lowest-performing students are moving from the "far below basic" level to "below basic," Hagen said.

West Contra Costa's focus on bridging the achievement gap also can be seen in its 24 lowest-performing schools, all but two of which hit their targets.

Town hall

FROM PAGE A1

Formed in 1921, the Kensington Improvement Club is said to be the oldest civic organization in Kensington. Its 15 board members represent about 700 club members, Lipscomb said.

The club's current focus is on improving Kensington landscaping, though it has also worked on emergency preparedness, road repairs and more, said club president Gloria Morrison.

"We view the town hall meeting as our report to the community, but the focus is changed from year to year," Morrison said. "This year, because we were able to get Ellen Tauscher, it will have national

or international flair."

Morrison added that the club had asked Tauscher to attend last year's town hall meeting, but she was unable to make it. "This time we got her. We're really pleased."

Tauscher is serving her fourth term representing California's 10th congressional district, which includes Contra Costa, Solano, Alameda and Sacramento counties.

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Real Estate & Home

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Friday, October 31, 2003

Section B

spooky: Pat and Anet's annual Halloween story

Number 380 in a series of true estate experiences

Halloween time, spooky! Strange things happen in real estate all year long; some of them are spooky.

And the one about the seller who reluctantly admitted to our agent that the house was haunted. We got there by means of a wobbly staircase and precarious path through the garden. Everything looked disheveled but normal when we first entered the room.

Then our unbelieving eyes saw a tunnel cut through the foundation and the earth under the house. This tunnel was large enough for a wagon and team of horses to be driven through.

It was a few moments before we could gather our wits and ask the obvious question: "What happened here?" As the reality of what we were looking at sunk in, we rushed to exit the house to the safety of the yard, then spent an hour listening to the owner's story.

The owner's daughter and her husband who had lived in the house had devised a plan to build a stairwell to connect the lower room to the upper living levels. Unfortunately, a lot of dirt and concrete were in the way of the proposed stair site.

They charged ahead anyway and, over a period of years, managed to remove and dispose of huge portions of the house underpinnings.



TAROFF AND TALBERT
True Experiences

We told the owner to quit worrying over interior paint, but instead to quickly consult a structural engineer.

Then there's the mercury-in-the-house story. It wasn't our sale, so the facts may be wrong, but what we heard is that before he died, a mad professor type conducted experiments of some kind in his house. Mercury was involved.

The house was stuffed with stuff which the heirs had removed to the dump. Apparently there was a way for the dump people to know that mercury was included in the trash from this house.

The heirs were charged \$30,000 to clear up the dump and another \$30,000 to rid the house of mercury remains. Even then, they had to disclose to potential buyers that there were remnants of mercury in the house.

See TAROFF, Page B3

Author, educator, legal mediator, expert witness and broker Lois Kadash will host and preside over a free seminar tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Berkeley Association of Realtors (BAR) auditorium at 1553 Martin Luther King Jr. Way at Cedar Street, in Berkeley.

"Thinking of buying a home? What you should know before you buy" should interest anyone thinking of buying a home but still has some questions about the myriad players and diverse responsibilities. Kadash, known for her light-hearted and direct teaching style,

will join a panel of related professionals, to help clear up misconceptions and provide details to demystify the homebuying process.

"This is a very good time to buy a home," Kadash said. "Inventory is high, which can keep the prices down, and interest rates are still relatively low. With the proper information, a buyer can take much of the anxiety out of the process and more easily achieve their desired results while in the market for a home."

To reserve your seat, call Daniel Duart at 510-528-3400.

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LAKE MERRITT \$849,000

One of the best condos in Oakland's landmark high-rise. Located on the 14th floor high above Lake Merritt, this special property has panoramic views into five counties. The many amenities include quality lighting fixtures, a custom wood-burning fireplace, a master bedroom retreat with home office and solarium. Shown by appointment.

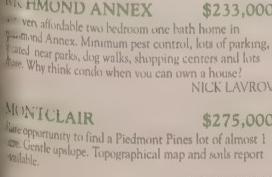
TOM ERWIN



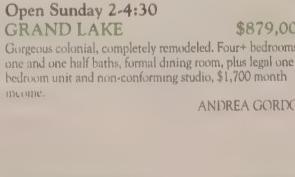
LAKE MERRITT \$425,000

This two bedroom, two bath condo has sweeping views of Lake Merritt and the park. Many amenities abound including wood-burning fireplace, formal dining room, a master bedroom retreat and an in-unit laundry. Included are 24-hour doorman and valet services.

TOM ERWIN



MARY HANNA



LAKE MERRITT \$675,000

Sweeping views of the lake and the East Hills are seen from every room of this high floor 2,000 square foot two bedroom, two and one half bath condo. Amenities include living room, a wet bar, formal dining room, a master bedroom retreat, a solarium and an in-unit laundry. Shown by appointment.

TOM ERWIN

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Real Estate Spotlight:

Art Deco home in Oakland built in 1926



THIS 1926 ART DECO HOME at 591 Valle Vista, Oakland, features many elements of a classic Mediterranean home. Situated up and away from the street, you cannot ignore the commanding presence this large family home. The exterior design has many variations in the elevation. The large Palladian window and the Monterey Colonial-style verandah are just two of the features you notice when you arrive. As you approach the front door you discover a large terrace, perfect for sunning. Upon entering the house the large and open floor plan offers many rooms, including a large living room with barrel vaulted ceilings and fireplace; or the dining room filled with light. This home has many of the original 20's deco lighting fixtures with frosted glass slipper shades that cast a truly wonderful soft glow.

The main floor also has a breakfast room, full bath with deco tile, laundry room, kitchen, and the first of four bedrooms. There is also a staircase that descends to a large bonus room with its own private entrance, as well as a basement workshop. The second floor of the home has three bedrooms and two full baths that also showcase the original art deco tile. A large and romantic master suite is filled with morning light and shaded in the afternoon by the covered veranda.

Price: \$679,000. Open house Sunday, Nov. 2, 1 - 4 p.m.

Listing agent: Heather Sittig, Maison Nouveau Realty, 510-849-9900, www.maisonnouveaurealty.com

Homeowner's insurance basics

NMAN.COM

Protecting your investment is what homeowners insurance and other insurance policies are all about. Coverage varies widely as do costs. Take time to shop rates and terms. Being over-insured can be as costly as being under-insured.

While most lenders will require you to take out homeowners, or hazard, insurance before they approve your loan, you should be thinking anyway

about how to protect the home you've just purchased. Most buyers get a comprehensive homeowners insurance policy, which provides coverage for fire damage, water damage (not by flooding, which is covered by federal flood insurance), personal possessions, personal liability, vandalism, theft and loss of use of the house.

See INSURANCE, Page B2

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Insurance

FROM PAGE B1

Guaranteed vs. straight replacement cost

The Cadillac of insurance policies is guaranteed replacement cost coverage, which will pay to rebuild your home even if the cost to rebuild exceeds your policy limit. This kind of coverage costs anywhere from \$400 too well in excess of \$1,000 a year, depending on the area and the price of the home. But even if you can afford it, it is not available everywhere or for every property — older homes, for example.

Some big insurance companies also have started limiting the amount they will pay on a claim to

In addition to regular homeowners insurance, you may require special coverage for such hazards as earthquakes and floods. While California is targeted for earthquake coverage, at least 16 other states are considered at risk for quakes.

120 percent of the policy's face value.

Straight replacement cost coverage, or cash value coverage, is a cheaper and more limited option (costing about 25 percent less per year than guaranteed replacement coverage). It will pay to rebuild your house if it's destroyed, but coverage is limited to the policy amount. Make certain you're insured for enough to rebuild.

In addition to regular homeowners insurance, you may require special coverage for such hazards as earthquakes and floods. While California is targeted for earthquake coverage, at least 16 other states are considered at risk for quakes: Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New York, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

Earthquake coverage can be costly (\$2 to \$15 per every \$1,000 of coverage), but you should consider it if you live near a fault or your home is more than 50 years old, built on a slope, a landfill or a flood plain.

If you live in a flood-prone area, you may need flood insurance, too, because water damage from dams and waterways is not included in standard homeowners policies. Available through the federal National Flood Insurance Program, an average policy runs about \$300 a year.

Insurance representatives must have certain information about you and the property before they can tell you if they will write a policy and how much it will cost.

They'll want to know your Social Security number, the age and location of the home you want to buy, proximity of fire stations, and the age and condition of the plumbing and electrical systems. The insurance company will also want to make sure that you're a good risk. If you've previously filed claims, or you're frequently late paying your bills, you may be denied coverage.

Don't wait to shop

Many buyers put off buying insurance until the last minute. This can cost you time and money. Start shopping for insurance as soon as you sign the purchase contract. Otherwise you could be caught short if the insurance carrier you have in mind refuses to insure your home. Some insurance carriers, for example, won't insure homes that are built on slopes or have shake roofs or antiquated electrical systems.

Take a look at your portfolio: It may be time for a little fall cleaning

Despite the recent gains in the market over the past few months, many investors are still holding on to stocks that have not fully recovered. As a result, this may be a good time to put emotions aside and evaluate your portfolio holdings to determine what action — if any — you should take to position your investments for the future.

And while it is tough for any investor to sell a stock at a loss, there are actually some benefits you can realize from doing so. Let's look at a few tips on how you can make the most of any losses incurred in your portfolio.

As you evaluate your holdings, take a good look at how each of your stocks has done since you bought it. Consider each stock's prospects for the future, along with the company's financial information. You can also take into ac-

count what the media is saying about a company and maybe even ask for a research report to see how analysts think the stock will perform in the coming months.

After you have taken a good look at your holdings, you should create a plan with guidelines that take into account how each company is valued now versus when you bought it and how it is expected to perform over the next year. Stick with your guidelines for each company and sell those stocks that do not measure up.

Now that you have decided what companies to sell, you are probably still wondering what the benefit of selling them at a loss will be.

The answer will come when you file your taxes. When you sell a stock at a loss you have the opportunity to offset any gains.

When cleaning up your portfolio, it is important to remember some of the key principles of investing, primarily diversification. A properly balanced portfolio should include a number of different investments in a range of sectors

For example, if you incurred \$2,500 in losses from the sale of your stock and sold another stock for a \$4,000 gain, you offset the gain with the loss, thus reducing your tax bill. In the example above, you would only have to pay taxes on \$1,500 of the gain, instead of the full \$4,000.

In addition, you can use up to \$3,000 in losses to reduce your taxable income in a single year, and you can carry forward any further capital losses to offset fu-

ture capital gains and/or income. Simply put, selling at a loss may reduce your overall tax bill.

Hopefully, you're feeling a bit better now about selling some of your stocks that have not performed as well as you expected them to, but do not stop there. Now you have the opportunity to rebuild — or at least add to — your portfolio so you can better position your investments to take advantage of improving market conditions.



LEILA GOUGH

Money Mail

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Leila Gough is an Associate Vice President at AIGA in Oakland. She can be reached at 510-452-8060.

'Open house' has been fine-tuned as an effective real estate tool

BY ALAN J. HEAVENS
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

It was conceived in the late 1970s to jump-start a residential real estate market battered by a weak economy and double-digit fixed mortgage rates.

It proved its worth during the glory days of the mid-1980s, when it provided the most exposure — and the quickest turnover — for houses in both city and suburb.

And, as with all marketing tools, the open house has undergone some alterations over the years. These days, some agents and brokers use open houses only as a last resort, or as a way of breathing life into a slow-moving property — one for which the price has been reduced, for example.

"If anything, the hours for open houses are shorter," said Joanne Davidow, a broker and manager of Prudential Fox & Roach's Rittenhouse Square office in Philadelphia.

"By limiting the hours, we get the serious buyers instead of people just out for a Sunday stroll. We've come to realize that the same number of people will come to an open house in an hour as would in three hours," said Davidow, who has been selling real estate for 25 years.

"If a buyer can't make the open house, he or she will make an appointment."

Other than getting an agreement of sale, which most agents say is quite rare, how do you define a successful open house?

"To consider an open house successful, six to eight people will have to pass through the front door during that hour," said Mike McCann, who sells real estate with Prudential Fox & Roach's Center City office.

"We recently had 28 people show up at an open house on Spruce Street. That was unbelievable. While having to work a seventh day knocks the wind out of an agent, open houses have become essential in most property sales."

Noella Barbone, manager of the Weichert Realtors' office in Paoli, Pa., said sellers who did not want open houses would be better off with them.

"Instead of having to get the house ready night after night for appointments, the seller would just have to do it one day a week," she said.

The strong real estate market tends to rule out open houses, because many properties get scooped up as soon as they hit the Multiple Listing Service.

Quick Over-The-Net Pre-Approval visit: www.EastBayHomeLoan.com

Agent: RE/MAX

"I encourage my agents to hold open houses even if there already is an agreement of sale," Barbone said. That isn't an attempt to circumvent the sales contract in search of more money, she said, but is done with the realization that agreements are "vulnerable to home inspections, so as much exposure as possible is a good thing."

Virtual-reality tours of residential real estate on the Internet have fine-tuned the open house as a marketing tool, rather than replaced it.

Data collected in 2003 by the National Association of Realtors show that 72 percent of 3,000 recent buyers responding to an NAR survey drove by or viewed a house for sale as a result of an Internet search.

Forty-six percent walked through a house visited online, the data show.

Seventy-eight percent found photos of the houses they saw listed on the Internet "very useful," while 46 percent said the same thing about virtual tours.

Only 15 percent did not use virtual tours at all.

If the data are to be believed, the Internet has increased the median amount of time buyers spend looking for houses and the number they look at.

Internet searchers spend eight weeks looking at 12 homes. Nonusers spend five weeks looking at only seven.

"Virtual tours have taken over," said John Duffy, owner of Duffy Real Estate in Narberth, Pa., and Wayne, Pa. "Their use, especially by people 50 years and older, have far surpassed the open house in use as a marketing tool. I once thought that only young people were computer-savvy. But I was wrong."

"A house is more than how it looks, but how it feels," Barbone said. "And looking at something on a computer screen doesn't tell the entire story, so a buyer may be ruling out a house that may be the one they should be buying."

Ruling something out before seeing it is a major reason Duffy continues on the open-house route.

"When the location of a house makes it sound as if it is on a busy street, buyers' agents won't recommend looking at it to their clients," he said. "The open house allows these buyers to see it for themselves, and then pass that information on to their agents."

Who shows up

■ Future sellers who are looking to see how an agent presents the property for sale and the kinds of things that are selling these days.

See OPEN, Page B5

How do you know a home has value?

BY DEBRA BERNARD
BERNARD MARKETING ASSOCIATES

All builders claim their homes have it. All buyers want it, but when it comes down to the nitty gritty, it's not so easy to agree to what "it" really is. Broadly defined, "it" is value, but what does value mean to today's home buyer?

The definition of value changes from buyer to buyer. One person's dream home is another's "no big deal." Given these differences, I recommend that buyers look at two types of value when choosing a new home — the "hard value" and the "soft value."

Hard value is investment value — the home's capacity to keep its value and offer a return on your investment over time.

Soft value is the value to you and your family — the home's ability to meet your needs all of the time you plan to live there.

Most buyers want a combination of the two types of value. They want to enjoy living in their home, and also be able to sell it for a good price when they leave.

If you want the extra wading pool, sauna, then by all means have it.

Look for the basics: Area home prices, many home shoppers, to the "meat and bones" approach. People are to what they can afford.

Using the tried-and-true approach, many are making their first priority with traditional floor plans.

Four bedrooms, one-half baths, one or more rooms, square footage — and not paying for bells and whistles.

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Taking your real estate VOWS

The Internet continues to change the practice of real estate. Many are not fully comprehend by buyers, sellers and agents in the real estate business. A current hot topic is called "VOWS," an acronym for "Virtual Online Web Site."

A VOW is a real estate broker's Web site that allows consumers to search Multiple Listing Services (MLS) active listings without direct interaction with the broker or licensee. Although the convenience and anonymity may seem appealing, VOWs have some features that could commit you to a relationship you may not want.

Before you make a serious decision, take the time to learn about the pitfalls of online real estate. VOWs can only be understood in the context of what they do.

Multiple Listing Service: In most areas of the country, real licensees cooperate with each other by placing their listings on the MLS. This database of agents and their clients' properties is an indispensable resource for agents and their clients.

Today, with the popularity of the Internet, Realtors tightly control this resource; it was not available to the public.

The Net-matured and real estate became an important phenomenon, programs were developed to enable MLS members to incorporate a listing

engine into their Web sites. Today, anyone with a computer and an Internet Service Provider (ISP) can quickly search for listings anywhere in the U.S. and Canada.

Internet Data Exchange

In mid-2000, the National

Association of Realtors (NAR) developed rules for MLS participants who wished to display active listings online. These regulations were then adopted by state Realtor organizations, including the California Association of Realtors (CAR). By January 1, 2002, each local MLS had created its own guidelines for users based on the NAR and state model rules.

The point of the policy is to create fairness and uniformity in how listings are displayed. It is also intended to minimize abuse of the system.

For example, it is mandatory that both the listing office and the listing agent's name be displayed near the listing information. This prevents someone viewing the site from being misled that the agent or broker who has created an IDX site personally has all those listings and is the only one who can be contacted about them.

There are other stipulations limiting use of the information for consumers to "personal, non-commercial use" and specifying a maximum number of listings that can be downloaded per search. For Internet-empowered buyers and sellers, the ease of online IDX searches has been highly desirable and the Realtor policy regarding its use has been invisible.

VOWs: Many in the industry feel that VOWs were created by individuals, not bound

by the Realtor Code of Ethics, who were looking to do an "end-run" around the system. Those who wanted to use the MLS data, but not play by the rules, said their Web sites were different



DON DUNNING
What You Don't Know Can Hurt You

from IDXs. They claimed their site was a "virtual office," i.e., an online real estate brokerage, and, as such, it was not subject to IDX policies. In response, new NAR and CAR VOW guidelines were created this year. Local MLSs must incorporate these VOW rules by January 1, 2004.

Although they may look similar online, the basic difference between an IDX and VOW is that IDX is considered an "advertising" site, whereas a VOW is where "consumers receive real estate brokerage services, including the opportunity to search for MLS data."

Perhaps you look at this and say, "It does not matter to me, as long as I can get the information I want." You should care.

An unknown, but presumably large, number of VOW sites have been established for the sole purpose of creating lists of potential buyers and sellers and then selling those names to legitimate brokers for a referral fee. New VOW rules prohibit this.

Interestingly, now IDXs have some loopholes that can be exploited until IDX rules are made more consistent with those for VOWs. The one most significant

is that DUNNING, Page B4



OAKLAND'S CHAPEL OF THE CHIMES includes an intriguing and innovative array of gardens, cloisters, alcoves, stairwells, fountains and chapels rising into vaulted ceilings and illuminated by dazzling natural light.

Oakland's Chapel of the Chimes offers free tour tomorrow

Oakland's historic Chapel of the Chimes at 4499 Piedmont Ave. invites you to a tour through history 10 a.m., tomorrow.

This fascinating building began in 1909 with the establishment of the California Memorial Crematorium and Columbarium, the first such facility in the East Bay.

By 1928, it had grown into a beautiful chapel and columbarium designed by prominent Bay Area architect Julia Morgan.

Convinced that the columbarium should be a haven of peace and tranquility, Morgan introduced an intriguing and innova-

tive array of gardens, cloisters, alcoves, stairwells, fountains and chapels rising into vaulted ceilings and illuminated by dazzling natural light.

Morgan's vision has been maintained as the facility has expanded to one and a half city blocks, to include a new funeral home, which opened in January 1999 — the same year, the City of Oakland designated this historic site as a city landmark.

The Chapel of the Chimes is a community treasure preserved from the past and entrusted to present and future generations.

Beautiful gardens, alcoves, cloisters, stairwells, fountains and chapels rising into vaulted ceilings and illuminated by natural light await you.

Space is limited for this free docent-guided tour. Call 510-654-0123 for more information and to reserve your space.

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Fabulous home with stunning canyon views from the custom redwood deck, 2 car garage, updated kitchen and baths, cozy fireplace, great floor plan and just minutes by car to Montclair Village or Skyline Park and recreation. Please visit our website at www.GroupHiggins.com for a virtual tour or call for FREE information 24 hours. 1-800-525-3704 ID#4211



Haddon Hill Craftsman • \$399,000

Stunning Architecture. Oak floors, built-ins with leaded glass, remodeled bathroom, large eat-in kitchen, nice backyard, detached garage and your own half-bath in the master. Just minutes from Lake Merritt & the Lakeshore & Grand Ave. shopping districts! Visit our website at www.GroupHiggins.com or call for FREE information 24 hours. 1-800-525-3704 ID#4210



Berkeley Victorian w/ 3 Bungalows! • \$1,230,000

This rare landmark property is one of a kind! The main house has 3+ bedrooms w/ 2 bathrooms. Soaring Victorian ceilings, 2 fireplaces and much more. Also included are 3 wonderful Spanish Mews cottages and expansion potential. Surrounded by lush gardens and just minutes by foot to the Gourmet Ghetto! Learn more on our website at www.GroupHiggins.com or call for FREE info 24 hours. 1-800-525-3704 ID#4204



San Leandro Spanish Medi! • \$499,000

Great neighborhood, quiet street, level fenced in backyard, cozy fireplace, close to great shops and restaurants. Tour on our website at www.GroupHiggins.com or call 1-800-525-3704 ID#4207



36 Cambridge Way, Piedmont

"Dave and Carla, Thank you for everything you did to help us sell our home. Not only did you oversee our home sale from start to finish, but you also got us a \$32,000 over asking price! WOW! Now we're buying a house out of the area and we sure wish you were the agents helping us!" JIM AND SYLVIA VIVRETT

Meet The Team



from left: Jasmine, Betsy, Dave, Carla, Angelo
When you hire Dave & Carla - You get Dave & Carla plus their team of professionals for the same price!

24 Hour Pre-Recorded Info Line

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Talk To No Agent • Pre-Recorded Info
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Home Evaluation
Call Us Now At

595-7699



To List Your Home Call Us Now at 595-7699

www.GroupHiggins.com

Dunning

FROM PAGE B3

to you may be that, currently, IDXs do not have the same stringent prohibition of selling names for referral fees as do DOWS.

Do not agree blindly. VOW sites require you to agree to "Terms of Use." In order to access MLS listings on a VOW, per CAR rules, you will need to "acknowledge entering into a consumer-broker relationship" with the company running that site.

This may mean you will agree to an agency relationship. (See my previous article, *Understanding Agency*, on my Web site.)

On another part of the Web site, you might be asked to accept a Buyer-Broker Agreement, or some other condition that could obligate you to paying this invisible, cyberspace entity. You may be required to submit confidential information about yourself. Before doing so, make sure the site has a privacy policy you find acceptable.

Virtual real estate? Buying or selling real property is not a make-believe or virtual experience. Unless you have virtual dollars you do not mind losing, you need to be clear on what to know

before buying or selling. You will want a virtuous Realtor, but what does it mean to choose a virtual one?

Realtors serve a vital function. Only about one third of all real estate licensees in California are Realtors, members of NAR, CAR and a local Realtor association.

First and foremost, Realtors are pledged, by the Realtor Code of Ethics, to represent your best interests. Why would you ever agree to an agency relationship with someone you do not know, have never met and may not be a Realtor?

Experienced, local Realtors know the territory and can help explain neighborhoods, problems to avoid and property values. Cyberbrokers, even if you meet them in person, tend to cover a large area, which means they may not specialize where you want to buy or sell. Working with someone who lacks in-depth knowledge is risky. (See my previous article, *Use Local Agent*, on my Web site.)

Final thoughts: Buying and selling real estate in the Bay Area is complicated and expensive. Whichever side of the sale you are on, you need an agent who is professional, competent and caring. Although there are many high

quality individuals in the business, those who do not fit this criteria could be dangerous to your financial and emotional health. (See my previous article, *Seven Sins of Selling & Buying*, on my Web site.)

Do not be lulled into complacency about the process by the simplicity with which you can locate real estate information online. Your ability to find listings does not make you an expert on the ins and outs of home buying and selling.

Be careful what information you give about yourself. Do not commit to an unknown company or agent. Keep in mind that the promise of "saving" you hundreds or thousands of dollars may actually cost you many times that amount if you work with the wrong people. The only vow you take should be to be responsible to yourself and make choices based on sufficient data and facts.

Don Dunning has been a full-time Realtor since 1979. He can be reached at 510-485-7239 or www.eastbay-realtor.com.

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www.OaklandHomeLoan.com

Agent, ReMax

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REAL ESTATE



5616 LaSalle Avenue, Oakland

FIRST OPEN. SUNDAY 2-4:30. New approximately 6000 sq. ft., elegant & stately designed residence. Features include: elevator, Bay views and quality finishes throughout. Located in the exclusive LaSalle Estates (Oakland).

Offered at \$2,988,000

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MONTCLAIR



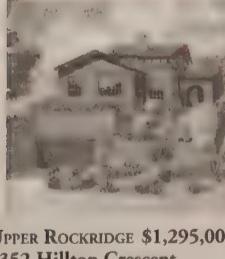
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1986 Mountain Boulevard
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510.339.8400

1430 Leimert Blvd.
Oakland, CA 94602
510.339.4000

www.MontclairBetterHomes.com

**Open Sunday
November 2
2:00 to 4:30**



**UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$1,295,000
5352 Hilltop Crescent**
Extensively remodeled Craftsman-style home with fabulous chef's eat-in kitchen opening to a large sunny slate patio for entertaining. Spacious landscaped lot with level lawn area and terraced garden. 4+ Bedrooms/3 Baths. Open 2-5
Michael Thompson 510.339.5775

**MONTCLAIR \$799,000
1601 Mountain Boulevard**

Home and guest cottage. Fabulous all level home 3 blocks from the Village, 2 blocks to the park. Wonderful details throughout. 3+ bedrooms, 2 bath. Open 2-5
Jack Brenneman 510.339.4557

**ALAMEDA \$658,000
2147 Encinal Avenue**

Nice, big single family with in-law unit w/ separate entrance. New paint interior and new carpet. Long driveway w/ a big back yard. Partial basement. Loc Nguyen 510.339.4000

**SAN LEANDRO \$645,000
228 Broadmoor Boulevard**

Beautiful 4 BD/2.5 BA, only 13 years old, sited on oversized landscaped lot amongst San Leandro North Area estate homes. Jenn-Air/Bosch kitchen, large family room, scrumptious master suite, and much more quality. EarleShenk.com 510.339.4000

**SAN LEANDRO \$569,000
520 Superior Avenue**

Very special San Leandro North Area 3/2 with detached office. Original 1927 details plus stunning upgrades include chef's kitchen and skylighted family room, gorgeous baths, private deck. EarleShenk.com 510.339.4000

IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING A MOVE, PLEASE CALL US!

Homebuying finance resources

COMPILED BY CHUCK MYERS
KNIGHT RIDDER

Although the time may be ripe to buy a new home, finding the right property is not always that simple. Several considerations must be taken into account before you start out, including the right real estate agent, price ranges that fit your budget and location.

If you're looking to buy a new home, you might consider checking out some of the informative books detailing the pros and cons of purchasing a house:

■ "The Everything Home Buying Book," 2nd ed.

By Mark B. Weiss and Ruth Reijns
Adams Media Corp., 2003 (\$14.95)
Instructs on how to choose and select a home plus home inspection and more
■ "Home Buyer's Checkbook"
By Robert Irwin
McGraw-Hill, 2002 (\$12.95)
Workbook-like lists that address a range of home-buying considerations.

See RESOURCES Page B6

OPEN SUN 11/2 & 11/9: 2-5PM

**5436 Locksley Avenue
Rockridge**

Adorable craftsman bungalow located steps away from desirable Market Street, BART and casual carpool. This three bedroom, one bath home retains all charming period details such as beamed ceilings, built-ins, crown moulding and hardwood floors. Updated amenities include spa-like bathroom with marble countertops and large kitchen. Mature lemon trees on property. Must see.

Offered at \$649,000

Betsy Tan
OFFICE: (925) 855-4109
btan@interorealestate.com

**INTERO
REAL ESTATE SERVICES**

Visit www.geocities.com/betsytan2003 for more photos of this listing.

1245 FRANCISCO STREET, BERKELEY

UPDATED FOUR UNIT COMPOUND IN NORTHWEST BERKELEY
Offered at \$795,000



Front House: Originally a single family residence, currently divided into 2900 square foot lower unit and 2BR/1BA upper unit. Both units are vacant, nicely updated with new kitchens and hardwood floors and suitable for owner occupancy.

Detached 2BR cottage: Nicely updated. Currently rented for \$1,550/mo.

Detached studio: Currently rented for \$700/mo.

**Ury Beary
RE/MAX Executive
(510) 527-8545**

**Billy Karp
Red Oak Realty
(510) 280-2138**

**OAKLAND HILLS \$495,000
4527 Tulip Avenue**

Just listed! Like New! Built in 2000 with fabulous master suite, enormous yard and loaded with charm! 3+BD/3BA. Open Sunday.

PatriciaBennett.com 510-482-9000

**EMERYVILLE \$1,250,000
7 Captain Drive #C304**

Stunning, elegant condo! 1 BD/1 BA. Warm and cozy living room with deck looking out at mature redwood trees.

New carpeting, new paint. Pool table, gym. Beautiful!

Paul DiLeo 510-899-5000

Open Sunday November 2 - 4 pm

**Montgomery \$1,195,000
Great SF commute location! State-of-the-art**

4 BD/3.5 BA Mediterranean Villa with cable and Ethernet wiring throughout.

Three master suites, 3 fireplaces, living area is great for entertaining, many relaxing balconies, and landscaped back yard.

NahidNassiri.com 510-339-4565

**HAYWARD \$1,195,000
Lovely Hayward Hills home, perfect for a family.** 4 BD/2 BA. Spacious patio, wood-paneled walls, Hardwood floors under carpet.

Linda Oliva 510-339-4565

**KING ESTATES \$412,000
Artfully remodeled 3 BD/2 BA**

private deck overlooking bay, kitchen, bath whirlpool tub, double windows, FDR, versatile floor plan, terraced landscaped garden with friendly neighborhood.

Joe Ashton 510-339-4565

**Income Properties \$420,000
Rental**

OAKLAND Great investment property with Freshly painted. Good upside potential!

Linda Oliva 510-339-4565

**UPPER LAUREL \$399,000
2627 Minna Avenue**

Price reduced on this well maintained, charming Spanish 2 bedroom, 1 bath house with a bonus room on a corner lot.

Torill Harge 510-339-4000

**LOWER LAUREL \$399,000
2627 Minna Avenue**

Price reduced on this well maintained, charming Spanish 2 bedroom, 1 bath house with a bonus room on a corner lot.

Torill Harge 510-339-4000

**MILLSVIEW \$325,000
3320 64th Avenue Place**

Sparkling with light and charm this perfect starter home is conveniently located close to Mills campus, shops, transportation to downtown Oakland and SF commute.

Easy care landscaping and more!

Rosemary Greene 510-339-4000

**OAKLAND \$249,000
For lease. Rockridge w/ view of SF, BA. H/W redmodeled kitchen & attached garage. Available Nov 1.**

Martha Shin 510-339-4565

Open Sunday November 2 - 4 pm

Taking a look around the East Bay real estate community

News and information for and about the area real estate community and affiliated industries.

THE PUBLIC

Before Buying
Thinking of buying a home? At "What You Should Know Before You Buy," a free homeownership seminar, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 1, at the Berkeley Association of Realtors Auditorium. The speakers are author and real estate broker Lois Kadosh, MA, and a panel of industry professionals. Get your seat by calling Daniel of CohnsLoans (stet) at 510-5900.

Holidays Past

Alameda Museum invites you to glimpse the spirit at "Holidays Past." View the holidays at the historic Meyers House and Gardens from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Dec. 6 and 7. The furnishings and decor of the Meyers House, a Colonial Revival style Christmas display. For more information call 510-523-5907. To buy out, call 510-523-5907.

Education Center
You're handy around the house or want to learn how, the Education Center in Berkeley is the place for you. BEC provides ongoing classes, lectures and tours for the experienced and new to remodeling and renovation. There are evening classes weekdays and daytimes classes on weekends. Topics cover tools, concrete work, retrofiting, plumbing, interior design, vinyl and solar electricity, to name a few. You can call the center for class information and contact Sydney at 510-525-5907 or visit the website at www.bec.org. In order to serve non-English speaking home buyers and sellers we have launched RE Translate on our website. Information is available in 13 languages, by clicking country's flag. Agents will be able to use this tool to maximize business. Check it out at retranslate.com or remax.ca.

RE/MAX Will Help
Now that fall is here and temperatures are cooling Pacific Gas & Electric Company encourages customers to call and schedule an appointment. Have pilot lights checked and gas appliances safety checked and efficiency. Service is offered at no cost and helps customers save money every day. Call 800-933-9555 or go to www.pge.com to see how to save money visit www.pge.com

Annual Meeting in Alameda
The public is always welcome at the Annual Meeting. The Inforum is inspired by the Alameda As-

sociation of Realtors. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month. The next meeting begins at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 11. The location is the Garden Isle Community Center on Melrose Avenue in Alameda. The focus of each meeting is an invited speaker and discussion of important real estate, economic and community concerns. The Inforum is dedicated to helping realtors stay informed about the real estate market, the community and issues that affect the economy. Agents are encouraged to bring information on new listings for presentation to the group. For more information contact Mary Canizzaro of AAR at 510-523-7229.

BAR CHECK

The Board of Directors of the Berkeley Association of Realtors recently chose a recipient for a monetary grant. The grant was issued from the association's newly named BAR Community Fund (previously called the Homeless Fund). BAR President Joan Brunswick and AE Terry Murphy presented a check for \$5,000 to the Women's Day-Time Drop-In Center in Berkeley. Board members of the Center were surprised at the Berkeley Realtors generosity and expressed sincere appreciation. BAR members are encouraged to continue to invest in the fund on a regular basis. All contributions are welcome, for more information call 510-848-4288.

EXCHANGE

Attend the 1031 Tax Deferred Exchange Seminar, Friday, Nov. 7, 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. North American Title and North American Exchange present the class. Attorney Lloyd Kendall offers new procedures regarding reverse exchanges. Learn about property types, identification, completion and rules. Earn three DRE credit hours. For tuition information call Ingrid Westgaard at 510-339-2380.

SECRETS

Are you or your assistant looking for more efficient escrow coordination systems? Announcing the "Escrow Coordination Secrets" Seminar. Whether you're a new or experienced agent, assistant or transaction coordinator you'll learn valuable timesaving tips. Learn to improve team relations and manage escrows. Author Diana Turnblom teaches this three-hour power-packed course. The Oakland Association of Realtors hosts this class from 9 a.m. to 12:10 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 5. Tuition and registration information is available at 510-836-3000.

CLOSE

Want more listings and buyers?



BOBBIE REID
Credit Worthiness

Attend "The Business Portfolio", presented by veteran business coach and trainer Kitty Cole. Cole teaches how to create this professional marketing tool. Learn how to use it with buyers, sellers, at Open Houses and as part of your Website. For a date and location near you call 925-254-1900 or send email to [Kitty@kittyc.com](mailto:kitty@kittyc.com).

NAR EXPO

There is no excuse not to attend the National Association of Realtors Conference and Expo being held Nov. 7 to 10. San Francisco is the location so be there for one day or the whole affair. Check out both events at [realtor.org](http://www.realtor.org).

OVERNIGHT DISCOUNTS

FedEx has joined the REALTOR VIP Alliance Program as a premier partner of the National Association of Realtors. Sizable discounts with cost savings is offered to members. One aspect of the program is an online benefit at fedex.com, where a shipping address book can be stored and labels created. To learn more about the NAR and FedEx program visit realtor.org/realtorVIP.

REALTOR UNIVERSITY

Education for real estate professionals doesn't stop when they receive their licenses. It is an ongoing process. The National Association of Realtors provides online education with the Realtor University Online. It offers over 100 hours of real estate and professional development classes. RUO allows agents to learn what they want, where they want. Students can test-drive a course before registering. For available courses check out realtoruniversity.org.

WHO'S WHO?

He's still at the top. Michael Hughey of RE/MAX Bay Area in Berkeley is lucky number 13 on the RE/MAX of California & Hawaii Top 100 list. Say congrats at 510-526-1200.

WHAT'S WHAT?

Someone new at your company? Someone special your company is doing? Changing locations? Putting on a seminar? Let me know. I'd love to let the world know. All my contact info is listed below. Send an email to bobbierid@mindspring.com. Fax your info to me at 510-441-7191.

Value

FROM PAGE B2

but realize that the extra money you spend on these special features might not be returned to you when you sell.

Look at the home's value to your family, or "soft" value. Do a "needs assessment" for yourself and those who'll live with you. How many bedrooms, baths, and amenities do you need? What are your short- and long-term needs?

Don't make the mistake of buying a quart of milk when you really need a gallon. Short-term planning can cost you more money than buying the home you'll need in three years, today.

Examine the community. Location is still an important consideration in a home's value. Do your homework with the city planning department to learn what the surrounding area will look like five years from now. In five years, a seemingly barren neighborhood may be built out with all the amenities you desire. An established community may be going through changes as well. Look at the long-term plan before making a decision.

Resale or new homes — which is better? Again, there's no "right or wrong" answer here — each has its merits. New homes offer fresh beginnings. They meet the current energy, earthquake and other construction requirements, and often feature innovative styling, financing, and a warranty. Established communities generally offer maturity including established landscaping and developed neighborhoods.

If buying resale, be sure to hire a consultant to inspect the home for you. If buying a new home, the home builder is required to get many inspections. The city or county can provide a copy of the "final" inspection report on a new home you're considering.

What is the home like? The home doesn't need to be fancy, but it should be flexible and accommodate your living situation. Do you need a home that will house several generations? If lots of people will be living there, are sleeping areas separate from common areas?

Home sites on cul-de-sacs offer greater privacy and corner lots have double curb appeal and landscaping on two sides. Large lots offer privacy and space between neighbors. Sellers often charge more for these three premiums, and they are still holding their value.

What's most important to you? In today's market, value is often subjective. It's what you need. Families with children might take

any house as long as it's in a great school district. Commuters may pay more for a new home that's nearer their job. A home that's a work of art, with beautiful detailing and an interesting floor plan will find buyers willing to pay a premium for its uniqueness.

While there's no hard and fast rule for determining your home's value, if you're practical look at your needs, and research what the home offers, you'll be well on your way to determining whether the home has the value you want.

Walnut Creek based Bernard Marketing Associates provides sales, marketing and management consulting to builders, developers, banking and real estate related clients on the West Coast. The company offers a variety of services, including market feasibility studies.

Resources

FROM PAGE B4

■ "Buying and Selling a Home" Kiplinger Books, 2002 (\$17.95) Insights on determining affordability, working with real estate agents and different property types.

■ "Buy a Home When You're Single" By Donna G. Albrecht John Wiley & Sons, 2001 (\$14.95)

Home-buying tips, options and insights when going it alone in the real estate market.

■ "Keys to Buying and Owning a Home," 3rd ed. By Jack P. Friedman Barron's, 2000 (\$7.95) Useful handbook that covers broker selection, loan qualification taxes and more

"As agents, we hope that the neighbors will come in, like what they see, and tell their friends," McCann said.

"Sometimes it happens, however, that a neighbor will come in and talk down the property."

As far as security is concerned "we tell people to put away things that might be broken or end up in visitors' pockets," Duffy said.

Often, an agent expecting a lot of traffic at an open house will bring another agent or his or her personal assistant along to keep control of the situation.

Agents are always looking for ways to put new zest into older methods.

Frank McGuirk of Re/Max Gold in Media has a "parade of home buyers" who meet with him at a single location and travel from listing to listing in a particular area.

"It creates a sense of urgency among the buyers on the tour," he said. "They hear others talking about a particular house, and they get interested. I think it is an 'auction' effect, because it heightens interest in the same way bidding at an auction does."

The GRUBB Co.



1046 Middlefield Road, Berkeley

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Charming four bedroom/two bath mid-century home w/gorgeous gardens, vaulted ceilings and beautiful park views. This open, spacious and light-filled home also boasts a two-car garage, plenty of storage and wonderful serene ambiance.

Offered at \$715,000

ANNE VAN DYKE

OFFICE: 339.0400/399
avandyke@grubbc.com
GRUBBCO.COM

The GRUBB Co.



186 Alvarado Road, Berkeley

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. An elegant home (circa 1934) on 1/2 acre of landscaped grounds! Two bedrooms, two and one-half baths, art studio or office, all on one level with level entry. Elevator to huge lower level. Adjacent lot is also available. A Rare Opportunity!

Offered at \$1,550,000

BEBE MCRAE

OFFICE: 652.2133/415
bmrae@grubbc.com
GRUBBCO.COM

The GRUBB Co.



3720 Linwood Avenue, Oakland

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Glenview Charmer! Newly remodeled with all the original architectural integrity still intact. Large public rooms with dramatic crown molding. Stone fireplace, original wood built-ins, match stick hardwood floors. A remodeled eat-in kitchen with granite counters & floors!

Offered at \$539,000

JILL CARRIGAN

OFFICE: 339.0400/328
jcarrigan@grubbc.com
GRUBBCO.COM

DON'T MISS THE OPEN HOME GUIDE STARTING ON B18.

GRUBB CO.

882 Paloma Avenue, Oakland
Coming Soon. Classic Crocker Traditional. One level floor plan, updated kitchen, private rear garden and attached garage. Three bedrooms, two baths. Price upon Request

ANNE FESTE
OFFICE: 339.0400/371
afeste@grubbc.com
GRUBBCO.COM

GRUBB CO.

5959 Balboa Drive, Oakland
in warm woods and tall windows of this Tahoe style home the Montclair hills make this a restful home retreat.
• 3 Bedrooms • 2 Baths • Living room with wood floors, vaulted wood ceiling & wood burning stove • Beautifully upgraded kitchen & wrap-around deck • Level yard • Hot tub
Offered at \$610,000

ANN NICHOLS
Senior Sales Associate
(510) 338-1319

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Discerning?
Working with discerning buyers and sellers is my strength. Call me today, and you will be my priority!

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Realtor

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PRUDENTIAL
California Realty

342 Highland Ave., Piedmont

GRUBB CO.

3720 Linwood Avenue, Oakland
Open Sunday 2-4:30. Glenview Charmer! Newly remodeled with all the original architectural integrity still intact. Large public rooms with dramatic crown molding. Stone fireplace, original wood built-ins, match stick hardwood floors. A remodeled eat-in kitchen with granite counters & floors!

Offered at \$539,000

JILL CARRIGAN
OFFICE: 339.0400/328
jcarrigan@grubbc.com
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So, why isn't my home selling?

■ Savvy agents keep sellers informed of market conditions, pricing strategies

NWAN NEWS
Imagine this. When you listed your home for sale, your neighbors told you that you priced it too low. Even so, buyers aren't beating down your door to make an offer. What should you do?

First, take neighbor's opinions about the value of your home as a compliment, but nothing more. Homeowners in your area are eager to see higher property values. But, their price opinion may be nothing more than wishful thinking. What you need is a reality check.

One of the most difficult real estate principles for sellers to grasp is that market value is set by buyers, not by sellers. In fact,

the very definition of market value is the price a willing and able buyer will pay.

Sellers are usually the last to know current market trends. Buyers, generally, are much more in tune with local market conditions because they're actively engaged in the home-buying process. They see more of the inventory of homes for sale than do most sellers. They know what's selling and what's not. Sellers usually have to rely on their real estate agents to keep them informed.

HOME SELLER TIP: Make sure you receive market updates from your agent. If not, let your agent know that you expect to be kept informed about current market developments, at least on a weekly basis.

You'll want to know if there are new listings on the market that are competing for the same buyers that you are. How do these listings compare to yours, in

One of the most difficult real estate principles for sellers to grasp is that market value is set by buyers,

terms of price, location, size and condition? How quickly are listings like yours selling? Have any competing listings sold recently? Did the buyers look at your listing? If so, why did they decide to buy something else?

Ask your agent to follow up with the agents who showed your home to get feedback. Resist the temptation to follow up with the agents yourself. This puts agents in an awkward position, and you're not likely to get the straight scoop. When confronted, most agents will tell you they like your home rather than risk offending you. Your agent is in a better position to elicit a candid response.

Don't be surprised if the feedback you receive is ambiguous. For example, you may hear that a buyer turned your house down because it had too many stairs or was on a busy street. Not because the price was too high. A savvy listing agent will help you read between the lines. If your home has an incurable defect—something you can't change—you need to discount the price so that buyers have an incentive to overlook the defect.

You may hear that your home was turned down because of cosmetic defects that can be

See HYMER, Page B7

Berkeley Realtors sponsor 'Pet Rescue'

■ Keller Williams business has gone to the dogs! (or cats, if you prefer)

KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY

Keller Williams Realty prides itself in community involvement and encourages all its Realtors to align themselves with causes that are dear to their hearts.

Realtor Associate Terry Osburn avidly supports pet rescue and adoption.

"As a Realtor and on a private note I have seen many sad and tragic situations with abandoned and abused pets," she said.

"I have learned that if there is pet abuse most likely there is spousal and child abuse. My pets have given me so much in my life, I want to give back in return."

Keller Williams Realty has joined with the Berkeley East Bay Humane Society, whose adoption van comes most Saturdays

between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. in front of the office at 1512 Walnut in Berkeley."

"If your pet if needs a new home with a large yard, you've come to the right place," Osburn said. "Our agents will help locate that special property. Whether selling or buying or both, Keller Williams Realty Berkeley Golden Gate works 'doggone hard' for your real estate satisfaction."

"Walnut Square Shopping Center is right next to us," said Osburn. "So come and have a good cup of coffee and we can talk about your real estate needs and then you can go shopping at all of the neat stores nearby," she said.

"That includes the Holistic Hound Pet Food Store right next door. What a 'pawfect' way to spend your Saturday."

Take a PAWS and stop by Keller Williams tomorrow or any Saturday and the enjoy the pets.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER.

Quick Over-The-Net Pre-Approval Visit:
www.OaklandHomeLoan.com

Agent: JR Max



634 61st Street

This 1909 3+ bedroom, 2+ bath Bungalow features spacious rooms with fir floors, box beam ceilings, wainscoting, new paint, and a full basement with access to the garage; at the rear of the house is a 1 bedroom, 1 bath non-conforming in-law unit.

Offered at \$429,000

Tom Nemeth
Senior Sales Consultant
tnemeth@pacunion.com
(510) 338-1381

PACIFIC UNION
GMAC Real Estate Services

just ask our clients

pacunion.com

JUST LISTED!

851 Washington Ave.
Albany

Offered at \$615,000

Open Sunday November 2nd, 2-4pm

Exceptional, remodeled 4 bedroom, 2 bath home with extensive upgrades. Facing south atop Albany hill, the large front patio welcomes you into the sunny main level with wood floors throughout. Formal dining room, large updated kitchen, large bedroom with fireplace. Flexible floorplan with separate entrance. Seismic upgrades.

JOSH LEVINE
510.280.2155

1891 Solano Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707



DIAN HYMER

House Hunting

Bake the soil? What's a gardener to do?

Question: Is there a way to sterilize soil other than baking it in an oven?

When I recycle the old soil from containers, I first sift the soil and then store it in trashcans. I find that the weed seeds are not killed when stored for a year or so. Do you have a suggestion?

Answer: Steriling soil in a dark location will suppress the weed seeds; however, when reintroduced to light and moisture, they do germinate. To effectively kill the weed seeds, soil insects and other soil pathogens, soil needs to be heated. Soil solarization is a simple non-chemical technique that captures radiant heat energy from the sun. A household oven isn't very practical. Commercial soil sterilization equipment is not cost effective for a home gardener. Soil sterilization is a sensible solution for large areas or small quantities of soil.

You can tarp areas off or place small amounts of soil in plastic bags. It should be pre-moistened and then sealed. The weeds seeds are killed as the temperature rises converting the moisture into steam. Depending on the quantity, it needs to bake in the sun for four to eight weeks.

June through September is the primary period to sterilize soil using the sun. Once it's been sterilized and aired out, you can store it in trashcans indefinitely.

Another way to control weed seeds around desirable plants is with pre-emergent herbicides. There are liquid as well as granular products available at your favorite garden center. The nursery

professional can recommend a product that will work in your yard.

Question: This spring, I would like to plant tomatoes in containers. Can you give me some pointers, such as how big the containers have to be, when to plant, watering, fertilizing, etc.?

Answer: Tomatoes need a large container to grow in as they have an extensive root system. I'd plant them in a half of a wine barrel or any container of a similar size. Tomato plants like warm days and nights. I would look to plant them after the rainy season has concluded and we are in a definite warming trend. This should occur between April 15 and May 1.

Tomatoes will grow in any of the commercial potting soil or planting mixes but I would add oyster shell lime to help ending blossom-end rot.

Next, install a spiral tomato stake in the center for the large growing varieties. The stake is added support for the center stalk, allows for good air circulation so the inside leaves don't turn brown and finally, when harvesting the tomatoes you are not fighting the wire cage. I would fertilize them with vegetable food every other month or with Osmocote at the time of planting and again in July.

Osmocote is a time-release



nutrients with every watering can is a little trick, need to be flexible with watering pattern because temperatures are not constant degrees water every hour. After 60 days, water every day and every day after.

You need to fill the container to the brim every time. Remove any saucers, want the water to flow down the bottom.

Next year, I would not use the same soil in a primary way to allow for better disease called verticillium wilt from being problem old soil can be used to other plants.

Buzz Bertolino is Executive Vice President of Napa Valley Centers. His Web address is www.dirtdesigner.com. questions to dirtdesigner or write 360 Civic Drive, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523.

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When: This Saturday, November 1st, 10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Where: Berkeley Assoc. of Realtors Auditorium, 1553 Martin Luther King Jr. Way @ Cedar

Who: Featuring Lois Kadosh, M.A. Author, Educator, Consultant, and Real Estate Broker. For more information on Lois, please visit www.realestateethics.com

Plus a Panel of Professionals:

Miriam Ng and Dialy Paulino of Korman & Ng Jeannie Borden and Renee Haugen of First California Title Co.

Russ Cohn and Daniel Duart of CohnsLoans

Bethany Barry of First American Home Buyers Corporation

Refreshments will be served

Raffle prizes will be presented

For more information, please call Daniel at CohnsLoans: 510.528.3400

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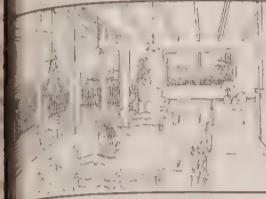
You should adjust the list price as soon as you discover it's too high for the market. The longer you wait, the bigger the risk your listing will be overlooked as more new listings come up.

THE CLOSING: A significant price reduction should have a significant impact. A good rule of thumb is to reduce the price by about 5 percent, or at least to a price that undercuts your closest competitor.

Dian Hymer can be reached at 510-339-4777 or by e-mail at Dian@Dianhymer.com.

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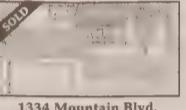


35 Agnes Street Stylish Contemporary - Beautifully Remodeled

4 BR, 3 BA, including lovely master suite. Office with full BA, light-filled, views of GG Bridge & SF.

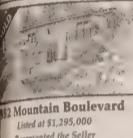
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32 Mountain Boulevard
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342 Highland Ave., Piedmont

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View Photo Tours on the Web

781 Santa Barbara, Berkeley

Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:00

Open Listing! Fabulous North Berkeley Monterey Colonial designed by architect Frederick Conter is set on approx. 9,300 sq ft. Elegant & spacious living room, 3 bdrms, 2.5 baths. The master suite has 2 balconies & new bathroom tile. A formal dining rm, breakfast rm w/built-ins, laundry rm & very comfortable, lg basement w/inside entry make this a delightful & comfortable home. Current owner has done many upgrades.

Austin & Kay Kruse 524-9888 x51, \$895,000

54 Keeler, Berkeley

Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:00

Best Value in North Berkeley Hills! Romantic 1934 Mediterranean on quiet street w/panoramic Bay & SF views. Enchanting living rm w/beamed ceiling, distinctive arched built-in bookshelves. Formal dining rm, modernized kitchen w/granite countertops, cherry wood cabinets, updated baths & classic, original, architecturally-designed details & fixtures. Home can be 5 bdrms or 3 bdrms/2 studios. Deck, garden, patios & attached garage.

Terese Ashman 524-9888 x11, \$875,000

1120 Gilbert Street, Oakland

By Appointment

Large Piedmont Ave. area property: Grand brown shingle plus rebuilt 1-bdrm cottage in award-winning design. Main house is 5+ bdrms, 1+ baths w/major upgrades: new roof, foundation & hydronic heating system. Lovely, private, ideal compound, or house + office or guest space.

Adene Baxter 524-9888 x19, \$875,000

582 Creston Rd., Berkeley

Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:00

Directly Across The Golden Gate", this secluded & private home offers a flexible floor plan. Lrg living rm w/frpl & built-in bookcases, formal dining rm, family rm w/access to sunroom, 3 spacious bdrms, 3 baths, hwd flrs, double garage, almost 2,300 sf of living space & almost 6,000 sf of lot. Sec. I of permit report is zero.

Maya Trilling 524-9888 x18, \$799,000

1059 Stannage, Albany

By Appointment

4 bdrms, 2 baths. Large home in beautiful condition. Large rear kitchen leads to deck and yard. Living room, dining room, and family room including a spacious master suite.

Bill & Tracy 524-9888 x51, \$595,000

1101 The Alameda, Berkeley

Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:00

Open Listing! Most desirable North Berkeley neighborhood close to Solano Ave. shops, North Berkeley Branch Library, North Shattuck Gourmet Ghetto, parks & much more. 2 bdrms plus home office, remod. bathroom, frpl & built-in shelving in living rm, formal dining rm & large, level bkdyd.

Jean Brunswick 524-9888 x12, \$549,000

4293 Whittle, Oakland

By Appointment

Cul-de-sac hideaway just a few blocks from shops and freeway access in the Lincoln Heights neighborhood of Oakland. This charming 2+ bdrm, a bath plus au-pair offers a flexible floor plan and a backyard to delight the most avid

Jean Brunswick 524-9888 x12, \$499,000

Thank you so much for all you did to facilitate the quick sale of our Albany home. It indeed was a pleasant experience and it was a pleasure to work with you.

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160 Gravatt Drive, Berkeley

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KAREN STARR

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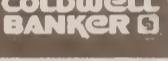
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6300 CHELTON DRIVE PIEDMONT PINES

Stylish mid-century Montclair home with views of San Francisco, the Bay, the Golden Gate Bridge & downtown Oakland. 3+ bedroom, 2 bath including master suite, plus rec room/home office or 4th bedroom, great indoor-outdoor living, wonderful backyard, spacious eat-in kitchen, formal dining.

Offered at \$749,000



Dian Hymer, CRS

Broker Associate

#1 Agent Oakland/Piedmont Office

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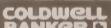
Charming home near Mills College. Great floor plan, two sunny bedrooms and lovely updated bathroom. Cozy living room with a fireplace, formal dining room and a spacious kitchen with access to a great backyard, bonus room and an attached garage. Great price! \$325,000

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1452 Lucia Court San Leandro

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8 Hardwick Avenue, Piedmont

A very stylish central Piedmont contemporary with a level living floor plan. Beautiful well designed gourmet kitchen, marble and granite bathrooms, state-of-the-art eleven seat home theater and formal living room and dining room. This home offers four bedrooms and three full baths.

Originally offered at \$1,250,000

**Anne Feste
Represented the Buyer
339.0400/371
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**Adam Betta
Represented the Seller
339.0400/251
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323 MONTE VISTA, #210, OAKLAND

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5942 Chabotlyn Terrace, Rockridge

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in a great Rockridge location!
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4 SIERRA AVENUE \$2,465,000
A truly wonderful home. All level gardens of magnolias & oaks, accessible from the family room, kitchen & library. Spacious formal rooms, grand staircase, au-pair suite and rumpus room. 5BR/3.5BA. Jean Simmons

186 ALVARADO ROAD \$1,550,000
An elegant home (circa 1994) on 1/2 acre of landscaped grounds! 2BR/2.5BA, art studio or office, all on one level with level entry. Elevator to huge lower level. Adjacent lot is also available. A rare opportunity! Bebe McRae

66 ALVARADO ROAD \$1,495,000
Stylish & sophisticated. 5BR/4BA renovated traditional. Updated kitchen. Large, private, level corner lot encompasses magical gardens and serene private patios. Minutes to Claremont Spa. Karen Starr

110 SCENIC AVENUE \$1,350,000
New Price. Gracious Mediterranean. Terrific remodel keeping original architectural details. Spacious formal rooms. 5BR/3.5BA plus room for play or study. Views of SF, stream & ponds. Diane Verducci

527 BLAIR AVENUE \$1,149,000
A handsome Monterey Colonial in great central location. Three large bedrooms, two new baths including master suite; a spacious formal living room, home office and great family room w/fireplace. Nancy Lehrkind

BERKELEY - OPEN SUNDAY 2 - 4:30



160 GRAVATT DRIVE \$1,395,000
A fabulous home designed & built by Paul Vincent. Stunning views. 4BR/3.5BA, kitchen/family room opens level out to private front patio. 2-car attached garage. Quality finishes throughout. Karen Starr

1046 MIDDLEFIELD ROAD \$715,000
Charming mid-century home in the Park Hills neighborhood. Serene ambiance, gorgeous gardens, vaulted ceilings, eat-in kitchen, 2-car garage & lots of light. Anne VanDyke

1431 GRANT STREET \$595,000
Very special light-filled home w/eat-in kitchen, spacious family room leading to big, beautiful level garden. Located close to the Gourmet Ghetto, BART, UC campus & all conveniences. Anne VanDyke

OAKLAND - OPEN SUNDAY 2 - 4:30



5616 LASALLE AVENUE \$2,988,000
New approx. 6000 sq. ft, elegant & stately designed residence. Features include: elevator, Bay views and quality finishes throughout. Located in the exclusive LaSalle Estates (Oakland). Debra J. Dryden

475 JEAN STREET \$625,000
A renovated traditional in move-in condition w/charm & architectural details intact. 4BR/2BA, elegant formal rooms, spacious master bedroom retreat, updated eat-in kitchen, deck w/hill views & lovely garden. Dana Cohen

5 DIABLO DRIVE \$1,765,000
Newly developed street off Skyline. Exceptional quality, just completed, approx. 5000 sq. ft. Central courtyard, sauna, air conditioning, 3-car garage, wine cellar & incredible Bay views. Debra J. Dryden

6151 ACACIA AVENUE \$1,549,000
A stately new traditional. Timeless elegance, rich w/architectural detail & craftsmanship. 4BR/4+BA. Designer kitchen, library/rumpus, fabulous views & lovely gardens. Elizabeth Dickson

1972 BYWOOD DRIVE \$1,390,000
Exquisite Oakmore colonial on approximately .47 acre lot w/breathtaking Bay view. Superb state of the art kitchen, fabulous master suite. 4BR/2.5BA, cozy home office & spacious rumpus room. Susanne Paul

195 ROBLE ROAD \$1,175,000
This recently completed custom contemporary features a lush garden courtyard, floor to ceiling windows, large indoor atrium & high quality finishes. 3+BR/2.5BA. Loft & library. Master bath w/sauna. Ford/Plowright

143 CALVERT COURT \$1,150,000
Mid-century by Architect E. Killingsworth. Private 1/3+ acre setting. Breathtaking indoor-outdoor architecture w/soaring walls of sunlit windows. Glimpses of the Bay. 3BR/2.5BA & library. Chris Cohn

1393 SUNNYHILLS ROAD \$1,089,000
Renovated traditional located on a beautiful tree-lined street & includes 4BR/2.5 remodeled BA, gourmet kitchen w/granite counters, family room + office. Hardwood floors, 2 fireplaces & 2 decks. Debbi DiMaggio & Adam Betta

5781 BUENA VISTA AVE. \$1,049,000
English charm w/style throughout. 4BR w/master suite, 3BA, kitchen/family room, home office, hardwood floors, beautiful windows & natural light, level front & back gardens. Steve Michaelides

35 BAY FOREST COURT \$949,000
Enjoy the dramatic San Francisco skyline, city lights & sunsets over the Bay. Chef's kitchen with upscale appliances. Family room w/kitchenette & spa. Master suite w/fireplace. 3+BR/3.5BA. Chris Cohn

1365 ALVARADO ROAD \$739,000
Stunning Claremont canyon contemporary! Close to shops & transportation, yet feels like a retreat. Hardwood floors throughout open design main floor. 3BR/2.5BA plus pair/in-law w/separate entrance. Tricia Swift

338 WARWICK AVENUE \$669,000
Four terrific units in a great location. Units boast pride of ownership. 2 one bedroom units and 2 studio units. Off-street parking. Close to shops, dining, entertainment & transportation. Anne Feste

1636 TRESTLE GLEN RD. \$649,000
A charming English Tudor in Crocker Highlands. Living room with vaulted ceiling & formal dining room. 2+BR/1BA, breakfast room & attached garage. Expansion potential. Judith Cain

444 MERRITT AVE. # 302 \$229,000
Very spacious 1BR/1BA top floor condominium with low maintenance deck off the living room. Conveniently located close to Lake Merritt, all urban amenities and transportation. Angela Wei Grubb

2415 DAMUTH AVENUE \$389,000
Adorable Mediterranean. Typical of its vintage, this sweet, sunny split-level (circa 1920), features a large eat-in kitchen, hardwood floors, plus room for office & beautifully landscaped garden. Freshly painted inside & out. Jill Carrigan

300 CALDECOTT LN. #110 \$399,000
Fabulous and stylish condominium w/2BR/2BA and balconies to enjoy the hillside vistas. Quieter location. Easy access to pool and gym. Great location for commute and easy living. A gem! Helene Barkin

BERKELEY - BY APPOINTMENT



BREATHTAKING VIEWS \$2,300,000
Absolutely breathtaking style & views! 3-car garage w/level entry to kitchen/family room. 5+BR/4.5BA. Elegant & customized throughout. Bebe McRae

VIEW TRADITIONAL \$825,000
Inviting 3+BR/2BA light & airy home + 1BR/1BA in-law. Gorgeous living room w/vaulted ceiling; spacious formal dining room, incredible views. The Ratcliffes

POOLSIDE RETREAT \$750,000
Private drive to poolside retreat! Close to Tilden Park! 4+BR/2.5BA. Sunny & private swimming pool and attached two-car garage! Great condition! Bebe McRae

BERKELEY TOWNHOME \$585,000
This spacious townhouse is conveniently located near the campus of U.C. Features include: 3BR/2.5BA, study, hardwood floors, fireplace & deck w/Bay views. Annie Walrand

MEDITERRANEAN \$519,500
Enchanting bungalow + studio. Exquisitely renovated w/Mediterranean details. Chef's kitchen w/eating nook. Studio, hot tub, garage & workshop. Chris Cohn

BERKELEY FIXER \$499,500
Mediterranean fixer with charm, location and potential. 3BR/1BA plus small library. Living room w/wood beams and fireplace. Kitchen w/breakfast room. Chris Cohn

AWARD-QUALITY LOFT \$399,500
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PIEDMONT & OAKLAND - BY APPOINTMENT



PIEDMONT ESTATE \$5,850,000
PIEDMONT: Elegant landmark country English estate on almost three acres. 8+BR, handsome library, indoor pool, exquisite gardens and majestic Oak trees. Sandra Vogl

ONE-OF-A-KIND HOME \$2,795,000
Sensational one-of-a-kind home. Walls of glass, high ceilings & stunning living room. Sweeping SF views. Great attached 2nd unit apartment. Anian Pettit Tunney

PIEDMONT OASIS \$2,650,000
PIEDMONT: Beautiful gardens w/lush lawn, arbor & pool surround this 4+BR/4BA home w/library & rumpus room. Needs some TLC. Separate guest cottage. Angela Wei Grubb

MONTCLAIR ESTATE \$1,897,000
Spectacular vintage estate set on 5.11 magical acres of privacy. Waterfalls, pool, lush gardens & Bay views. Main house + 4 additional structures. Anne Feste

CLASSIC MEDITERRANEAN \$1,695,000
High-quality throughout, 4+BR/3.5BA, pecan floors, grand living room, open kitchen/family room. Beautiful stone & ironwork master w/views. Kurt Buchholz

CROCKER HIGHLANDS \$1,250,000
Classic & stately redesigned traditional w/level out park-like garden. Upper Crocker Highlands. 4BR/2.5BA. Family room off stunning kitchen. Debra J. Dryden

OAKMORE TRADITIONAL \$1,075,000
A brand new traditional w/Bay views, 4BR/3+BA, loft multi-purpose room. Family room off gourmet kitchen, decks + small level front garden. Debra Dryden

MONTCLAIR VIEW HOME \$799,000
Enjoy serene canyon views from every level of this spacious 4BR/3.5BA contemporary home with updated kitchen adjacent to family room. Huge rumpus room. Mavis Delacroix

SOPHISTICATED! \$739,000
Dramatic 3BR/2BA Piedmont Pines contemporary w/SF Bay views. Living room & dining room open to decks, perfect for entertaining. Great location. Debbi DiMaggio

RESORT LIVING \$735,000
Expansive two-parcel site in serene setting. 3BR/2BA and fabulous entertainment from family room with access to gorgeous pool and patio. Helene Barkin

DRAMATIC CONTEMPORARY \$725,000
Very dramatic Montclair contemporary home (circa 1995) located on a large lot. Soaring spaces, fabulous light! 3BR/2BA. Garage. Fay Keogh

PARK-LIKE GARDEN \$689,000
3BR/3BA. Updated kitchen/family room. Mastersuite w/2 additional BR on the same floor. Large rumpus room. 2-car garage w/interior access. Kurt Buchholz

ROCKRIDGE CONDOMINIUM \$415,000
Exceptional Upper Rockridge condominium w/Bay views. Prestigious Heritage building! 2 BR/2BA w/updated kitchen, fireplace, elegant lobby & elevator. Bebe McRae

LOTS & LAND \$1,000 EACH
BUILDABLE LOTS \$689,000 EACH
Two Piedmont side of Montclair lots. Debra J. Dryden

CLAREMONT VIEW LOT \$199,900
Upslope lot w/serene canyon views. Diane Verducci

CLAREMONT HILLS LOT \$150,000
Creek setting. Adjacent to 186 Alvarado Road. Bebe McRae

WEEKLY SALES**ALAMEDA**

1454 6th St - \$404,000
 1153 Admiralty Ln - \$459,000
 33 Bay Pk Terrace 22 - \$541,500
 262 Beach Rd - \$480,000
 18 Brebaut Ct - \$504,000
 3278 Briggs Av - \$475,000
 2709 Central Av #A - \$300,000
 2709 Central Av - \$310,000
 2018 Eagle Av - \$675,000
 2042 Encinal Av - \$541,500
 3245 Encinal Av - \$440,000
 3214 Fairview Av - \$670,000
 3011 Fernside Bl - \$522,000
 1612 Grand St - \$536,500
 1523 High St - \$500,000
 992 High St - \$440,000
 431 Lincoln Av - \$440,000
 336 Magnolia Dr - \$525,000
 22 Millington Ct - \$550,000
 2031 Otis Dr #C - \$248,000
 1417 Page St - \$610,000
 1025 Pearl St - \$530,000
 3258 San Jose Av - \$463,000
 2133 Santa Clara 216 - \$489,000
 18 Shamrock Ln - \$667,000
 1321 Webster D119 - \$282,000

ALBANY

509 Cornell Av - \$431,000
 630 Curtis St - \$507,500
 1315 Marin Av - \$500,000
 555 Pierce St #740E - \$332,000
 789 Taft Av - \$450,000
 1209 Washington Av - \$530,000

BERKELEY

1412 6th St - \$400,000
 2129 6th St - \$249,000
 2139 Ashby Av - \$450,000
 2626 Benvenue #4 - \$320,000
 1723 Blake St - \$630,000
 3004 Dana St - \$499,000
 2754 Dohr St - \$409,000
 2825 Dohr St - \$420,000
 907 Dwight Wy - \$408,500
 915 Dwight Wy - \$408,500
 923 Dwight Wy - \$408,500
 3038 East Halcyon Ct - \$390,000
 1128 Euclid Av - \$495,000
 25 Hazel Rd - \$945,000
 1410 Holly St - \$802,000
 1400 Hopkins St - \$257,500
 1642 Milvia St #2 - \$435,000
 2226 Prince St - \$505,000
 1553 San Lorenzo Av - \$560,000
 501 Santa Barbara Rd - \$1,280,000
 561 Santa Barbara Rd - \$423,000
 670 Santa Barbara Rd - \$1,150,000
 2880 Shasta Rd - \$570,000
 25 Stoddard Wy - \$660,000
 1628 Stuart St - \$450,000
 1520 Tyler St - \$334,000

EL CERRITO

1319 Arlington Bl - \$675,000
 7439 Moeser Ln - \$700,000
 441 Norwell St - \$405,000

EL SOBRANTE

1221 Salida Wy - \$345,000

EMERYVILLE

1200 65th St #233 - \$490,000
 6 Admiral Dr #A279 - \$232,000
 6 Captain Dr #E332 - \$190,000
 10 Commodore Dr - \$420,000
 5855 Horton 723 - \$535,000
 103 Liquid Sugar Dr - \$453,000
 155 Temescal Cr - \$254,500

KENSINGTON

12 Jessen Ct - \$425,000

OAKLAND

1417 102nd Av - \$178,000
 2817 13th Av - \$435,000
 1542 17th Av - \$260,000
 1735 22nd Av - \$245,000
 1715 24th Av - \$270,000
 1922 24th Av - \$339,000
 2035 27th Av - \$350,000
 3756 39th Av - \$320,000
 522 44th St - \$505,000
 1376 54th Av - \$445,000
 1350 64th Av - \$225,000
 2673 66th Av - \$244,000
 1140 71st Av - \$350,000
 1027 76th Av - \$250,000
 1211 77th Av - \$240,000
 1450 77th Av - \$315,000
 1223 79th Av - \$298,000
 1668 83rd Av - \$355,000
 2044 84th Av - \$284,000
 1955 90th Av - \$220,000
 2628 90th Av - \$325,000
 2022 9th Av - \$285,000
 1345 Alvarado \$608,000
 2862 Atwell Av - \$320,000
 9844 B St - \$300,000
 3717 Balfour Av - \$785,000
 3093 B'moor View - \$419,000
 320 Caldecott 115 - \$359,000
 280 Caldecott 208 - \$291,500
 300 Caldecott 211 - \$390,500
 200 Caldecott 212 - \$375,000
 13462 Campus Dr - \$300,000
 540 Capistrano Dr - \$275,000
 10 Chatsworth Ct - \$841,000
 6630 Chelton Dr - \$686,000
 9307 Cherry St - \$299,000
 425 Clara St - \$178,500
 145 Colgett Dr - \$1,475,000
 10429 Dante Av - \$279,000
 4266 Detroit Av - \$594,000

See SALES, Page B11

Find Out What Your Home is Worth On-Line visit:
www.PiedmontHomeValue.com

Contact the real estate editor at 510-748-1655 or e-mail devanosky@cctimes.com
 Advertisers: To be considered for the Real Estate Spotlight (front cover box) e-mail and photo to: hillsrefeaturehome@cctimes.com

HARBOR BAY REALTY
 SALES • RENTALS • PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
510-523-1144
 885 Island Drive, Alameda

hbrhomes.com

Albany

\$549,000 907 Madison St. Newly remodeled single level 2bd, 2ba home. Kitchen & appliances, bathrooms, carpet & linoleum floors, central water heater and furnace all replaced in 2003. Ramon 510-814-4873.

Oakland

\$369,000 5427 Brookdale Ave, 1ST OPEN SUN 2-4 Split level 2bd, 2ba bungalow/formal dining, finished basement. Lots of upgrades. Maryann 510-814-4873.

PENDING

\$415,000 5407 Hillen Dr. Cute 1-level 2bd, 1ba bungalow with updated kitchen & formal dining room. Fireplace in living room. Maryann 510-814-4873.

PENDING

\$399,000 2865 Morcom Ave., Maxwell Park Home. 1-level, 3-bd, 1.5ba, family room, formal dining room, eat-in kitchen. Tere 510-814-4840.

PENDING

\$449,500 2331 23rd Ave. Duplex; both 2 BD, 1 BA units. Bright & airy bright. Pergo floors, granite counter tops, tile floor in kitchen. Lince 510-814-4822.

PENDING

\$548,000 13383 Campus Dr. Choice lot with panoramic view located in the prestigious Ridgemont area in the Oakland hills. Connie 510-814-4814.

PENDING

\$435,000 1515 Grove Way. Bright & beautiful single level 2bd, 1ba, 2 bath home w/ large deck, 2-car garage, access to 880 & 580. Tere 510-814-4840.

PENDING

\$1,350,000 1475 159th Ave. Residential units and a 3bd home all on one lot over 3/4 acre. 4 blocks to Bayfair shopping center. Bev & George 510-814-4831.

PENDING

\$1,350,000 533 Drew St. OPEN SUN 2-4:30. Mint 1-level 3bd, 2ba home with granite floors in living room & family room. Marble slab kitchen counter. Dual pane windows. Eunice 510-814-4892.

PENDING

\$369,000 2213 Oak Creek Pl. OPEN SUN 2-4. Spacious 2 bedroom end unit in well maintained complex. Fireplace, interior laundry, backyard & attached 2-car garage. Community pool and tennis court. Jane 510-814-4810.

PENDING

\$355,000 5150 Diamond Heights Blvd 306 B. Spectacular views of Bay Bridge & East Bay. 1bd, 1ba condo, dual pane windows, fireplace. Chuck 510-814-4847.

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 SALES • RENTALS • PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

510-523-1144

885 Island Drive, Alameda

hbrhomes.com

Hayward

\$343,000 2196 Oak Creek Place. OPEN SUN 2-4 2-bedroom, 2.5 bath townhouse in park-like setting. Den/office on Main level. Jane 510-814-4810.

Montclair

\$749,000 152 Gwendolyn Glade, 1ST OPEN SUN 2-4 Wonderful Tudor home in move-in condition! 2bd, 1.5ba, formal dining room w/French doors to garden, living room w/French doors to deck. Detached 2-car garage with office above. Creek in backyard w/hot tub. Karen 510-814-4873.

San Leandro

\$299,500 14642 Outrigger Dr. 2bd, 1ba unit with high ceilings, fireplace, 2-car garages, and community pool, spa, and tennis courts. Tere 510-814-4840.

PENDING

\$295,000 2511 Galleria, 1bd, 1ba, bathroom, tile floors, laundry, 2-car garages & carport. Tere 510-814-4840.

PENDING

\$1,350,000 1475 159th Ave. Residential units and a 3bd home all on one lot over 3/4 acre. 4 blocks to Bayfair shopping center. Bev & George 510-814-4831.

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\$349,000 2213 Oak Creek Pl. OPEN SUN 2-4. Spacious 2 bedroom end unit in well maintained complex. Fireplace, interior laundry, backyard & attached 2-car garage. Community pool and tennis court. Jane 510-814-4810.

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Sales

PAGE B10
 3826 Dwight Wy - \$560,000
 1120 East 22nd St - \$350,000
 2115 East 23rd St - \$260,000
 1942 East 26th St - \$255,000
 4210 Fleming Av - \$320,000
 3829 Frazer St - \$275,000
 205 F. Ington St - \$264,500
 1133 Encourt Dr - \$636,000
 6129 Greenly Dr - \$385,000
 6249 Harrison St - \$500,000
 2649 Holy St - \$300,000
 2321 Hyde St - \$260,000
 591 Jean St #213 - \$340,000
 6101 Johnston Dr - \$550,000
 771 Kingston 206 - \$222,000
 285 Lenox Av #405 - \$299,500
 7431 Lockwood St - \$208,000
 380 Longridge Rd - \$623,000
 551 Lyon Av - \$281,000
 5529 MacArthur Bl - \$310,000
 5728 McCall St - \$352,000
 525 Mandana 207 - \$210,000
 6129 McKinley Av - \$592,000
 6019 Michigan Av - \$330,000
 3621 Millsbrae Av - \$394,000
 4563 Montgomery St - \$459,000
 2440 Monticello Av - \$380,000
 6180 Moraga Av - \$615,000
 3404 Morcom Av - \$335,000
 112 Moss Av #14 - \$222,500
 485 N. Pl'sant Vy Ct - \$510,000
 311 Oak St #521 - \$575,000
 6189 Oakdale Av - \$342,000
 6456 Oakland Dr - \$87,000
 6568 Ocean View Dr - \$675,000
 6531 Ocean View Dr - \$888,500
 407 Orange St #102 - \$209,000
 407 Orange St #105 - \$206,000
 6825 Skyline Bl - \$780,000
 6260 Suter St - \$369,000
 9118 Thermal St - \$280,000
 6860 Vernon St #209 - \$289,000
 4807 Walnut St - \$386,000
 600 Wayne Av #3 - \$306,000
 4000 Wayne Av #6 - \$389,000
 7 W. Edero 104 - \$220,000
 1128 Westmoorland - \$235,000
 3880 Whittle Av - \$530,000
 1901 Winthrop St - \$393,000
 1901 Winthrop St - \$402,000

EDMONT

139 Arbor Dr - \$772,000
 15 Crest Rd - \$975,000
 19 Wildwood Av - \$1,225,000

RICHMOND

541 17th St - \$220,000
 534 19th St - \$200,000
 903 24th St - \$237,000
 685 34th St - \$117,000
 546 38th St - \$379,000
 1645 3rd St - \$165,000
 427 A St #1 - \$93,500
 427 A St #3 - \$93,500
 427 A St #4 - \$93,500
 1724 Carlson - \$349,000
 104 Commodore - \$349,000
 2419 Downer Av - \$262,000
 6229 Fresno Av - \$330,000
 310 Hawk Ridge Dr - \$575,000
 5363 Heavenly Ridge - \$600,000
 6603 Kensington Av - \$205,000
 1556 Mariposa St - \$300,000
 664 Mulberry Ct - \$620,000
 668 Mulberry Ct - \$602,000
 62 Promontory Dr - \$475,000
 276 Pyramid Dr - \$375,000
 1797 Ralston Av - \$419,000
 1734 Rheem Av - \$296,000
 574 Sanford Av - \$237,000
 418 South 18th St - \$288,000
 656 South 31st St - \$265,000
 651 7th St - \$340,000
 55 Vernon Av - \$268,000
 3829 Wall Av - \$140,000
 4503 Wall Av - \$310,000

AN LEANDRO

13815 Bancroft 14 - \$250,000
 720 Bloom St - \$646,000
 730 Bloom St - \$646,000
 1610 Boxwood Av - \$395,000
 1381 Burkhardt Av - \$440,000
 272 Cherrywood Av - \$365,000
 15099 Churchill St - \$395,000
 14988 Corvallis St - \$375,000
 18895 Ehle St - \$399,000
 74 Euclid Av - \$583,000
 1835 Gordon Wy - \$286,000
 1082 Grace St - \$405,000
 950 Haas Av - \$585,000
 568 Kenilworth Av - \$360,000
 18277 Liberty St - \$320,000
 2417 Limehouse - \$385,000
 400 Maud Av - \$417,500
 18251 Miramar Pl - \$375,000
 6229 Monterey Bl - \$431,000
 558 Muscari St - \$625,000
 14975 Olivia St - \$680,000
 535 Peralta Av - \$380,000
 2484 Placer Dr - \$390,000
 16223 Roland Av - \$445,000
 15347 Ruggles St - \$440,000
 2216 Sandpiper Ct - \$430,000
 14005 Seagale 238 - \$350,000
 785 Sybil Av - \$380,000
 14554 Sylvia Wy - \$405,000
 2223 Woodduck Ct - \$429,000
 6330 Woodgate Dr - \$326,000

295 Ano Av - \$310,000
 1881 Via Barrett - \$410,000
 1481 Via El Monte - \$500,000
 18038 Via Rincon - \$355,000
 18048 Via Walter - \$380,000

Sale SALES Page B12

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 visit:
www.OaklandHomeValue.com

House hunting this weekend? Turn to Hills Newspapers Real Estate & Home section first.

Northbrae



2 Charming Homes On One Lot!

The front house on this lovely lot is an adorable 2+BD/1.5BA brown shingle, while the rear is a charming 2BD/1BA cottage. Perfect for home + income or 2 owners! Wonderful details, remodeled kitchens and much more. Off street parking, 2 car garage (used for storage) and a friendly neighborhood! Offered at \$749,000.

Unspoiled

Berkeley

Bungalow!

A rare opportunity in a wonderful North Berkeley neighborhood!

3+BD/2BA, leaded, cut glass doors on extensive built-ins, unpainted wainscoting, tile front fireplace, formal dining room, spacious kitchen and lots more!

With some love and elbow grease this home will soon be a quintessential Berkeley bungalow! Offered at \$539,000!

www.northbrae.com
 Northbrae Properties • 526-4336
 1600 Hopkins Street • Berkeley • 94707

Announcing
 Five East Bay Locations
 to Serve You

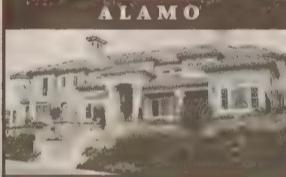


INTERO
 REAL ESTATE SERVICES

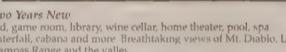
*Our goal: to provide
 the world's finest customer
 service in real estate.*



PLEASANTON



ALAMO



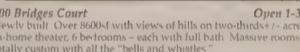
ALAMO

Two Years New
 5bd, game room, library, wine cellar, home theater, pool, spa, waterfall, cabana and more. Breathtaking views of Mt. Diablo, Las Trampas Range and the valley.

925.646.5321 Carol Erbert \$3,399,000



ALAMO



ALAMO

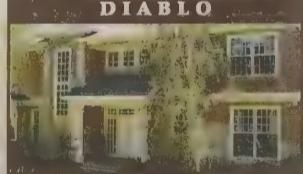
100 Bridges Court
 Newly built. Over 8600sf with views of hills on two-thirds +/- acre. Home theater, 6 bd, 6 baths – each with full bath. Massive rooms, stately custom built with all the "bells and whistles."

925.684.5347 The McDougall Team \$2,995,000

Nantucket Diablo Estate

This 4 year new masterpiece is located in lower Diablo. 5 bedrooms, 4 full and 2 half baths, adult and family rooms, gourmet kitchen and conveniently located to club and tennis.

925.855.4155 John Lopes \$2,850,000



DIABLO

By Appointment
 Old World Charm. This custom estate features over 5000sf, 5bd, 5ba, spacious formal DR, elegant master suite with FP. Possible au-pair setup. Mature landscaping on 1.55+/- acres with vineyard and views.

925.321.2300 Diane Yatman and Kathleen West \$2,300,000

DANVILLE



BLACKHAWK

38 Rosewood Court
 Completely remodeled, granite kitchen with stainless Viking appliances, remodeled bath, 3 fireplaces, newly painted in and out, new landscaping front and rear. 5bd, 3.5ba, 5173+/- sf.

925.648.5331 Paula Knapp \$1,699,000

BLACKHAWK



MARTINEZ



MARTINEZ

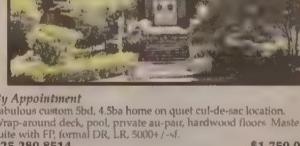
4889 Venner Road
 Just Reduced! \$41K! Prestigious and picturesque Alhambra Valley. 5bd, 3.5ba, 3900+/- sf on 91+/- acres. Infinity pool, entertainer's delight. Stunning views of Mt. Diablo and Alhambra Valley. Houses possible.

925.648.5326 Brad Gotberg \$1,399,000

BLACKHAWK



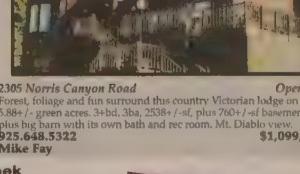
LAFAYETTE



LAFAYETTE



SAN RAMON



SAN RAMON

510 Justin Morgan, Alamo
Exceptional Quality Traditional
 This 2-Story has traditional features custom appointments throughout. Spacious 4100+/- sf, 5bd, 4.5ba, office, library, loft. Mature landscaping, black-bottom pool with spa.

925.648.5346 Mike Webber \$1,995,000

Blackhawk

4125 Blackhawk Plaza Cr.

925.648.5300

Danville

30 Oak Court

925.855.4000

Pleasanton

5075 Hopyard

925.251.2500

Orinda

89 Davis Road

925.280.8500

Walnut Creek

1280 Civic Drive

925.280.8500

Los Altos

650.947.4700

Los Gatos

408.357.5700

San Jose

408.879.5900



Sales

FROM PAGE B11

By the numbers**ALAMEDA**

TOTAL SALES: 26
LOWEST PRICE: \$248,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$675,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$477,019

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 6

LOWEST PRICE: \$32,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$530,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$458,417

BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 26
LOWEST PRICE: \$249,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,280,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$533,038

EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 3
LOWEST PRICE: \$405,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$700,000

MEDIAN PRICE: \$675,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$593,333

EL SOBRANTE

TOTAL SALES: 1
PRICE: \$345,000

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 7
LOWEST PRICE: \$190,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$535,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$420,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$367,786

KENSINGTON

TOTAL SALES: 1
PRICE: \$425,000

OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 90
LOWEST PRICE: \$87,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,475,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$385,261

PIEDMONT

TOTAL SALES: 3
LOWEST PRICE: \$772,000

HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,225,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$990,667

RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 30
LOWEST PRICE: \$93,500
HIGHEST PRICE: \$620,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$306,783

SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 31
LOWEST PRICE: \$250,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$680,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$399,000

AVERAGE PRICE: \$436,200

SAN LORENZO

TOTAL SALES: 6
LOWEST PRICE: \$310,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$500,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$390,000

PLEASE BE KIND TO THE ENVIRONMENT, RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER.

178 CRESTVIEW DR., ORINDA

This impressive Craftsman-style residence stands elegantly on a magnificent tree-studded lot overlooking the valley in one of Orinda's finest settings. To experience the harmony of a "Scenic Cameron Home" is to witness the idyllic genius of architectural intricacy and uncompromising passion for artistic detail. Completed in late 2003, this magnificent three-bedroom home is a statement to the quality of a bygone era. From the handcrafted Alder wood door to the blend of natural stone and marble, each individual artisan has built in perfect harmony to create a veritable symphony of fine architectural chiseled.

The sunning kitchen is outfitted with top quality Viking six-burner range, Viking built-in refrigerator, Bosch dishwasher and double sinks set in smooth, ceramic stone. A masterful great room and stone fireplace add warmth and cheer to family activities. A spacious master suite with cozy fireplace overlooks the quiet morning mist, which envelopes the valley. Enjoy commanding views framed through the original leaded glass windows. Offered at \$2,495,000.

www.OrindaHome.com (925) 766-3030

**The GRUBB Co.
REALTORS®****5781 Buena Vista Avenue, Rockridge**

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. This custom home is full of charm and amazing amenities throughout. Four bedrooms including a master suite and three full baths. Wonderful chef's kitchen with island features granite counters, Viking range, eat-in area and adjacent family room. Many upgrades throughout, extra storage and level front and back gardens. Two car garage with interior access.

Offered at \$1,049,000

KURT BUCHHOLZ
OFFICE: 339.0400/221
buchholz@grubbc.com
GRUBBCO.COM

Visit GRUBBCO.COM
Photo Tours
of this and other current listings

Crocker Highlands Tudor

Open Sunday ~ November 2 ~ 2 to 5 PM



Captivating storybook English Tudor in picturesque Trestle Glen. First time on the market in 50 years! Living room with fireplace, formal dining room, 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, upgraded kitchen, finished basement with sliding glass doors to patio. Vintage charm throughout - stenciled beams, leaded glass windows, hardwood floors under carpet.

1580 Trestle Glen Road
Offered at \$665,000

More photos and virtual tour on my website:
www.doloresthom.com

Dolores Thom
Fine Homes Specialist
(510) 834-2010 Office
(510) 835-6080 Voice Mail

Prudential California Realty

**Coming Soon!**

Brown shingle bungalow in Central Berkeley on large wooded lot. Needs lots of work, but priced accordingly in the low \$300,000's...stay tuned!

BERKELEYHOME
REAL ESTATE & INVESTMENT
www.BerkeleyHome.com
1575 Hopkins St., Berkeley
(510) 527-5500

Tim Q. Cannon, Listing Broker
Berkeley Home Real Estate

**Glass/Sabine
Your Fine Homes Specialists****JUST SOLD!**

680 Spruce Street in the Berkeley Hills

Glass/Sabine was pleased to represent the buyers
of this classic William Wurster home.

COMING SOON: New listings in Piedmont, Claremont and Montclair Hills.
Watch our website at www.GlassSabine.com

Prudential California Realty

Glass•Sabine
FINE HOMES SPECIALISTS

JUDITH GLASS
510.326.7929
SHEILA SABINE
510.326.5055

Service Without Compromise
(510) 848-2724
nakamura-realty.com

NAKAMURA
REALTY INC.

2554 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, Berkeley

25649 CRESTFORD CIRCLE, CASTRO VALLEY
\$783,000

Five Canyons 3+ Bed 2.5 Bath Gem.

Plenty of updates throughout.

A beautiful & very desirable property
for those who expect more and are
difficult to satisfy.

SELLER WILL PAY CLOSING COSTS

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30 PM

HERCULES \$449,000

301/218 Charming w/ Ample Gated

Master Bedroom Suite, Walk to Wall Carpeting,

Replace In Living Room, 2 Car Garage, etc.

Level and nicely landscaped front &

year yards. Peac, Apple & Asian Pear trees!

Very quiet & private backyard.

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30 PM

BERKELEY \$799,000

6 Units-1 Bed.

Nice Not Mkt Good sized lot.

Some separate utility meters.

Nearby to Ashby BART & Berkeley's

Historic Latin District. CALL TODAY!

BERKELEY \$475,000

6/10x19 Victorian TRIPLE w/ 1-2BD

ups and 2 studios downstairs.

Needs TLC. Close to the 4th St.

Shops. Gourmet Ghetto.

All 3 UNITS ARE VACANT!!!

OAKLAND \$350,000

FOR RENT Opportunity knocks today!

Your own private compound.

Inside laundry & detached 2 car garage.

Furnished in Living Room. Walk to the Cup

House for tennis and swimming!

RICHMOND \$342,000

Hilltop Wings Modern, Spacious & Bright.

Comfortable, this delightful 8BD/2.5BA

Townhouse, 2 pvt. Pats w/ garden area.

Inside laundry & detached 2 car garage.

Furnished in Living Room. Walk to the Cup

House for tennis and swimming!

OAKLAND \$355,000

VICTORIAN DUPLEX/2BD/2BA

Non conforming attached garage

as studio w/ bath.

Also approved plans for 2nd floor addition.

near. Close to Transbay!

RICHMOND \$220,000

Check this one out. 2BD/1BA

Craftsman. Looks nice.

\$2k Section 1 pest report

Painted for \$1k

Call today on the cutie!!

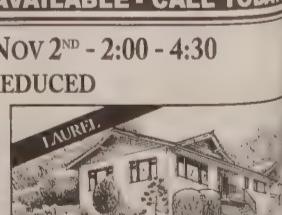
OPEN SUNDAY - NOV 2ND - 2:00 - 4:30

PRICES REDUCED



6622 Sobrante Road
Now offered at \$529,000

Enchanting Montclair home, 2+BR/1.5 BA, remodeled kitchen, great lower level space, park-like hillside garden.



4134 Harbor View Avenue
Now offered at \$489,000

Enjoy a great view from this 2BR/2BA home. Convenient floor plan, new appliances, family rm.

ADDITIONAL PROPERTIES AVAILABLE - CALL TODAY!

DIMOND \$1,225,000

Spacious home, large family room, 3BR/2BA, deck, yard.

3857 Coolidge Avenue
Now offered at \$439,000

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Now offered at \$439,000

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Looking for a new home? Don't miss this week's Open Home Guide on page B18.

WELLS & BENNETT
REALTORS

1451 LEIMERT BLVD., OAKLAND • 531-7000

• LAKE TAHOE 1-800-858-2463 Rentals/Sales www.tahoerentals.com

• WALNUT CREEK (925) 938-8484

OPEN 2-3:30

OPEN 2-3:30

BY APPOINTMENT

INCOME PROPERTIES



\$1,900,000

373 4th STREET #2A

Jack London Square. Don't miss this chance to own one of the most spectacular loft spaces in an award winning building in historic Jack London Square! 1,850 sq. ft. of sophisticated living, perfect for entertaining. City lights view from rare corner unit, stylishly updated throughout. Tracy Butler 531-7000 x232

CLAREMONT PLACE

Hillside Hills. Close to everything! Near Claremont shopping, restaurants. Easy access to freeway. Make your move today! www.hillsidehills.com 531-7000 x295

5+ Units near U.C. Owners unit \$825,000

Berkeley Way **Berkeley.** 5+ Units near U.C. Owners unit \$825,000. Other units are studios. Wonderful location near BART. Excellent value. www.hillsidehills.com 531-7000 x235

5+ Units near U.C. Owners unit \$825,000

SACRAMENTO STREET **Berkeley.** 5+ Units near this Old World Victorian duplex with tall coffered ceilings, 2BD/2BA upstairs which includes a darling expanded attic, 2BD/1BA down with a wood brick fireplace which opens to a lovely cactus garden. www.hillsidehills.com 531-7006 x290

5+ Units near U.C. Owners unit \$665,000

5+ Units near U.C. Owners unit \$375,000

10 DELAWARE STREET **Berkeley.** Positively 4th Street. Stylish 2BD/1BA condo 1/2 block from shops, cafes and 4th St. ambiance. High ceilings, tall windows, fireplace, new carpet, Pergo. Washer/dryer in unit. Stan Hammond 531-7000 x246

5+ Units near U.C. Owners unit \$375,000

400 WAYNE AVENUE #5 **Berkery.** 2BD/2BA Beautiful unit with views and short block to Lake Merritt. Very bright, over 1000 sq. ft. Quiet location, smaller complex (7 units). Washer/dryer hookups. Patsy Buhler 531-7000 x235

5+ Units near U.C. Owners unit \$330,000

OPEN HOMES

COLDWELL BANKER

www.CaliforniaMoves.com

Berkeley 510.486.1495 • Oakland 510.339.4700

BY APPOINTMENT

5+ Units near U.C. Owners unit \$2,350,000

Claremont Hills **Stephens Way** **Grand View Dr.** Sun 1 - 4:30

5+ Units near U.C. Owners unit \$1,730,000

Claremont Hills **Grand View Dr.** Sun 2 - 4:30

5+ Units near U.C. Owners unit \$1,495,000

Claremont Hills **Elverton** Sun 2 - 4:30

5+ Units near U.C. Owners unit \$1,245,000

Claremont Heights **Live Oak Rd.** Sun 2 - 4:30

5+ Units near U.C. Owners unit \$850,000

Claremont Heights **Euclid Ave.** Sun 2 - 4:30

5+ Units near U.C. Owners unit \$839,000

Claremont Highlands **Schooner Hill** Sun 2 - 4:30

5+ Units near U.C. Owners unit \$775,000

Claremont Highlands **Moore Drive** Sun 2 - 4:30

5+ Units near U.C. Owners unit \$749,000

Claremont Highlands **Chelton Dr.** Sun 2 - 4:30

5+ Units near U.C. Owners unit \$690,000

Claremont Highlands **Broadway Ter.** Sun 2 - 4:30

5+ Units near U.C. Owners unit \$690,000

Claremont Highlands **Shattock Avenue, Berkeley** Sun 2 - 4:30

5+ Units near U.C. Owners unit \$690,000

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Escrow coordination seminars set for Oakland, Concord

PROVIDENCE PUBLISHING

OAKLAND — A three-hour power escrow skills seminar is planned for Concord and Oakland in November. The seminar is geared toward real estate professionals and/or assistants looking for simple solutions to escrow management.

Diana Turnblom, an escrow coordinator for eight years, instructor and author of Escrow Coordination Secrets, will give you custom forms to keep you organized, teach you time saving techniques and team coordination. Cost of the seminar is \$125 and includes a copy of Escrow Coordination Secrets.

Call Brian Malmendier at Providence Publishing, 925-228-7090 to RSVP for Nov. 5 at the Oakland Association of Realtors, 1528 Webster Street, Oakland, or for Nov. 10 at Marie Callender's Restaurant, 2090 Diagonal Blvd., Concord.



Ury Beary
(510) 527-8545

NEW LISTING

OPEN SUNDAY,
November 2nd, 2-4 p.m.
1201 TALBOT AVE
BERKELEY

Updated mid-century creek side cottage in great Westbrae location near shops and restaurants. Three bedrooms, two baths, attached garage, 1,544 sq. ft. of living space.

Offered at \$449,000

RE/MAX
EXECUTIVE

New Montclair Listing ~ Open Sunday, November 2, 2-4:30



5941 PINEWOOD ROAD, OAKLAND

Exceptional 7 year old home in convenient Montclair location. The well designed floor plan is further enhanced by the indoor/outdoor flow with access from the kitchen/family room to the patio, private level yard and garden. 4 Bedrooms, 3.5 Bathrooms, 2 car garage.



Teri Carlisle
Senior Sales Consultant
(510) 338-1305

Offered at \$995,000

PACIFIC UNION
GMAC Lender
Excellence in Lending

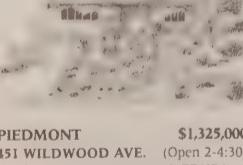
just ask our clients

pacunion.com

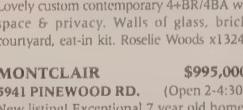
Open Sunday
PIEDMONT \$1,599,000
8 GLEN ALPINE RD. (Open 2-4:30)
Handsome remodeled contemporary in impeccable Piedmont neighborhood. 5BR/4.5 BA, garden. Debi Fitzgerald x1306



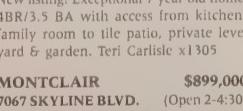
UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$1,589,000
5499 GOLDEN GATE AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
Price Reduced! Classic Mark Becker designed home. 4+BR/3.5 BA, crafts room, wine cellar, master BR w/fireplace, hardwood, granite. 4000+ sq. ft. Ashley O'Neill x1368



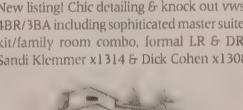
PIEDMONT \$1,325,000
451 WILDWOOD AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
Lovely custom contemporary 4+BR/4BA w/ spa & privacy. Walls of glass, brick courtyard, eat-in kit. Rosalie Woods x1324



MONTCLAIR \$995,000
5941 PINEWOOD RD. (Open 2-4:30)
New listing! Exceptional 7 year old home. 4BR/3.5 BA with access from kitchen/family room to tile patio, private level yard & garden. Teri Carlisle x1305



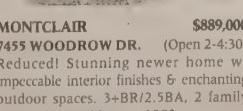
MONTCLAIR \$899,000
7067 SKYLINE BLVD. (Open 2-4:30)
New listing! Chic detailing & knock out vws. 4BR/3BA including sophisticated master suite, kit/family room combo, formal LR & DR. Sandi Klemmer x1314 & Dick Cohen x1308



MONTCLAIR \$889,000
7455 WOODROW DR. (Open 2-4:30)
Reduced! Stunning newer home w/ impeccable interior finishes & enchanting outdoor spaces. 3+BR/2.5BA, 2 family rooms. Nancy Moore x1302



MONTCLAIR \$889,000
5668 BUENA VISTA AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
Price Reduced 100%! Best value for '94 Upper Rockridge home. Level-in 3+BR/2+BA, contemporary in great area. Library w/GG view, Italian tile floors. Dee Knowland x1318



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PIEDMONT \$699,000
23 GREENBANK AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
Great 1922 Craftsman on tree-lined street. Vintage features. 3BR/2BA. Level yard. Walk to school. Dee Knowland x1318

LINCOLN HEIGHTS \$479,000
3937 RHODA AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
Very special 2BR/2BA home with large eat-in kitchen, formal dining room, level out to private yard & patio, 1 car garage. Jennie A. Flanigan x1354

NORTH OAKLAND \$429,000
634 61ST STREET (Open 2-4:30)
Spacious 3+BR/2+BA w/eat-in kitchen, fir flrs, box beam ceilings & wainscoting, new paint, garage. Non-conforming 1BR attached unit. Tom Nemeth x1381

NORTH BERKELEY \$1,750,000
Historic chalet just north of U.C. restoration of a unique and beautiful Maybeck and White Archite SeeMore @pacunion.com. Gina Bo

OAKLAND HILLS \$1,750,000
One of 10 homes under construction cul-de-sac. 4BR/3BA. Custom every home, gourmet kitchen, fireplace, bay views. David Ichlan

CROCKER HIGHLANDS \$750,000
Elegant period details and a massive skylighted attic highlight this 1933 Tudor. 2+BR/2BA, wood SeeMore @pacunion.com. Gina Bo

MONTCLAIR
Fabulous Bay view lot with large area. 2.6+ acre at the end of a cul-de-sac. Wendy Gardner Ferran

MONTCLAIR
Walls of glass capture tranquil views from this 3+BR/2.5BA 2-story living room, vaulted ceiling, loft, eat-in kitchen. Robyn M

UPPER ROCKRIDGE
Fabulous lot in heart of Upper Rockridge. 6200+ sq. ft., level, North Bay Duffy x1326

1900 Mountain Blvd., Oakland, CA 510.339.6460

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Photo Tours

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16 Oak Court, Orinda

Price Reduced

New construction. Beautifully crafted luxurious Mediterranean on almost 1/2 acre. Magnificent views. 5 bedrooms, 4 baths, huge kitchen/family room with breakfast room. Top-of-line appliances. Family room has built-in home theater. Luxurious master suite & bath. Cathedral ceiling throughout. Santos mahogany floors \$1,480,000

146 Las Vegas Road, Orinda

Price Reduced

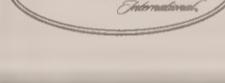
Beautifully maintained home in Orinda Country Club area on approx. .39 ac. 3 bedrooms, 3 full baths and guest house with full bath. Large sparkling rooms. French doors to well landscaped yards/patios. Large kitchen/family room. Luxurious master suite and bath with fireplace. (Parking on 12 El Verano \$1,480,000)

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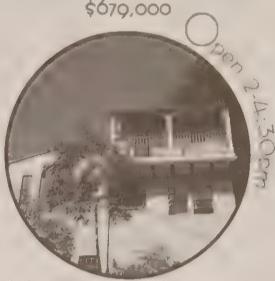


Architectural gem

5BR, 2.25BA • Many original details including built-in window seats and box-beam ceilings • Large entry hall • Living room with grand brick fireplace connecting to the formal Dining Room's fireplace • Master Bedroom has its own enclosed sun room overlooking the large park-like back garden • Staged by SCOUT!

591 Valle Vista Ave

\$679,000



Mediterranean-Deco mix

4+BR, 3BA • Large living room with fireplace and barrel vaulted ceilings • Light filled dining room • Many original 20's Deco lighting fixtures • Large bonus room with private entrance • Basement workshop • Golden oak floors • Large garage • Level back yard • Walk to Grand Lake Theater, Lake Merritt, and More! • Staged by SCOUT!

8866 Skyline Blvd

\$615,000



Million dollar views!

3BR, 2BA • 3 view decks • Newly painted kitchen with beautiful new granite • Redwood hot tub • Large tree filled lot • Bonus room/Den • Additional storage room and/or workshop • Next to Redwood Regional Park • Fireplace • Newly painted kitchen • Hardwood floors • Wood beam ceilings • Views from almost every room!

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OAKLAND \$393,000
2/1 - Rare, fabulous large sunny unit in 4-unit building. Formal dining room, fireplace. Near Rockridge BART and College Avenue shops and restaurants
6481 Benvenue Avenue #4 Open 2-5



OAKLAND \$1,295,000
5+3.5 - Brand new Craftsman lodge revival on an oak-studded parcel with 2 master suites and 3,500 square feet of fabulous details. Private yet close to everything!
71 Robie Road Open 2-4



OAKLAND - NEW LISTING! \$289,000
LOFT - 840 square foot corner loft with mezzanine, skylights, remodeled kitchen and bath. Photos and more information at www.saragabedian.com
730 29th Street #7 Open 2-4



BERKELEY \$828,000
Duplex - One 2+2/5 unit and one 2/1 unit with mesmerizing panoramic Bay Bridge and tree views from every room! Interior staircase creates SFH of 2,482 square feet
190 Tamalpais Road Open 2-5



BERKELEY \$799,000
4 UNITS - Located in NW Berkeley. Large vacant duplex with 2/2 and 2/1, a 2/1 cottage and one studio cottage. Upgraded kitchens & baths. Great for owner occupants
1245 Francisco Street Open 2-4



BERKELEY - NEW LISTING! \$289,000
2/1 - Beautifully renovated cottage. Private fenced yard. Lots of storage. One block to BART and Berkeley Bowl. Located in a great neighborhood!
2915 B Otis Street Open 2-5



BERKELEY - NEW LISTING! \$529,000
2/1 - Enchanting Victorian near Gourmet Ghetto, BART, UC Berkeley. Huge walk-in attic, high ceilings, garden, 2-car garage. See photos at www.izumitada.com
1734 Martin Luther King Jr. Way Open 2-4



BERKELEY - NEW LISTING! \$299,000
2/1 - Fabulous fixer with original details and great character. Hardwood floors, fireplace, formal living room and dining room, large backyard. Close to shops and transportation
1644 Ashby Avenue Open 2-4



BERKELEY \$520,000
3/1 - Charming with beautiful built-ins, tiled fireplace in living room, wooden trim, and hardwood floors on a quiet block-long street near Hopkins shops, parks and BART
1408 Cypress Street Open 2-4



ALBANY \$615,000
4+2 - Exceptionally remodeled Albany Hill Traditional with views. Patio over the garage, vaulted ceiling in living room, flexible floor plan, separate entrance, earth retrofitted. MORE!
851 Washington Avenue Open 2-4



ALBANY \$549,000
DUPLEX - Charming and vacant, near Memorial Park. One bedroom in each unit, large two-car garage/workshop. 5,000 square foot lot
726-28 San Carlos Avenue Open 2-5



ALBANY \$525,000
2/1 - Grace and style. Lovingly updated with new kitchen, granite counter, all new appliances, new bath, gleaming hardwood floors. More info at www.bobblumberg.com
1314 Marin Avenue Open 1-4



RICHMOND ANNEX - NEW! \$369,000
2/1 - Sparkling split-level. Country kitchen opens to sunny deck. New kitchen and bath. Hardwood floors throughout. Loads of space in basement. Close to transportation & shops.
6120 Huntington Avenue Open 2-4



EL CERRITO - NEW LISTING! \$549,000
3+ - Sunny, spacious Elcier style in the hills. Vaulted living room ceiling, renovated kitchen and baths. Large deck for private lounging. Near open space. Must see
1155 King Court Open 2-4



EL SOBRANTE - NEW! \$199,999
2/1 - Lovely with lots of space and a beautiful dining area. Warm up next to the tiled fireplace and enjoy the convenience of in-unit laundry and easy freeway access.
3806 Via Verdi Open 2-4



HERCULES - NEW LISTING! \$289,500
2/2 - SPECTACULAR with Pergo floors throughout, designer colors, cathedral ceilings, plantation shutters, fireplace, serene hills view. A/C, attached garage, community pool.
385 Porthole Court Open 1-30-4

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Monday, November 17th
1:00pm to 4:00pm

(Registration and refreshments begin at 12:30pm)

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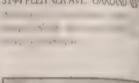
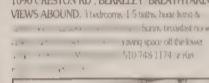
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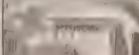
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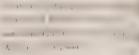
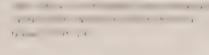
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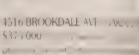
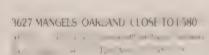
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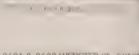
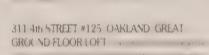
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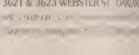
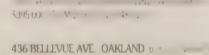
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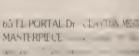
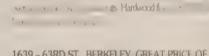
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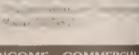
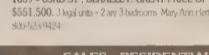
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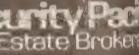
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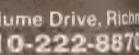
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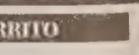
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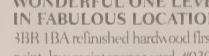
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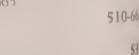
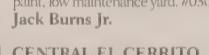
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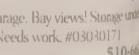
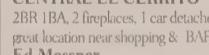
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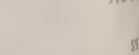
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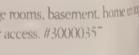
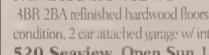
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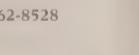
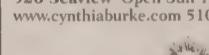
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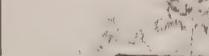
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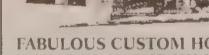
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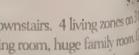
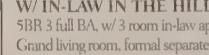
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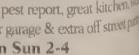
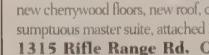
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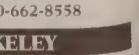
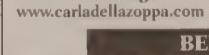
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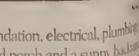
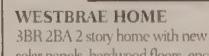
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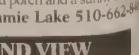
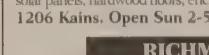
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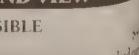
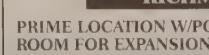
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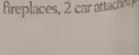
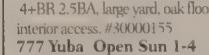
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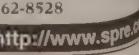
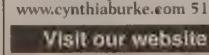
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On behalf of every Seller and Buyer that I represent, I will donate \$500.00 to the charity of their choice for all escrows closed between now and April 30, 2004. Call or email me for further details.



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\$225,500 965 Shorepoint Ct #114 1BD/4BA

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Gallagher & Lindsey Dorothy Franchi

\$239,000 218 Brush St #M 2BD/1BA

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Gallagher & Lindsey Ann Brace

\$299,900 601 Willow St 2BD/1BA

Open Sun 2-4 510-814-4825

Harbor Bay Realty Shirley McWilliam

\$358,000 1919 Mirturn 2BD/1.25BA

Open Sun 2-4 510-521-1611/502-0437

Fortuna Realty Bob Cucchiara

\$399,500 1314 Lincoln 2+BD/2BA

Open Sun 2-4 510-814-4893

Harbor Bay Realty Kathy Bell-Mathy

\$425,000 301 Broadway #201 2BD/1BA

Open Sun 2-4 510-665-3460

Kane & Associates Pat Colburn

\$429,500 1306 Mound St 2BD/1.25BA

Open Sun & Sun 2-4 510-521-6000/821-4040

Alameda Realty Chris Price

\$459,000 1210 Pacific Ave 3BD/1BA

Open Sat, Sun 2-4 510-814-4884

Harbor Bay Realty Izabella Lipetski

\$469,000 305 Haight 3+BD/1BA

Open Sat & Sun 2-4 510-814-4767

Harbor Bay Realty Loorraine Ingeman

\$469,000 460 Cola Ballena F 2BD/2.5BA

Open Sun 2-4 510-814-4875

Harbor Bay Realty Dredre Dixon

\$469,000 470 D Cola Ballena 3BD/2.5BA

Open Sun 2-4 510-814-4839

Harbor Bay Realty Bill Douglas

\$479,000 1105 Post St. 2BD/1BA

Open Sat & Sun 2-4 510-814-4893/814-4822

Harbor Bay Realty Kathy Bell-Mathy/Jean Powers

\$485,000 830 Halight Ave 2+BD

Open Sun 2-4:30 510-522-5827/521-1630

Bayside Real Estate Dianna Wyman/Janelle Spatz

\$494,000 208 Mainland 3BD/2BA

Open Sun 2-4 510-814-4874

Harbor Bay Realty Mark Played

\$539,000 3224 Bayo Vista Ave 2+BD/1BA

Open Sat & Sun 2-4 510-522-4449

Gallagher & Lindsey Keiko McDonald

\$550,000 1718 St Charles St. 2 units

Open Sun 2-4 510-814-4845

Harbor Bay Realty Marilyn Pomeroy

\$569,500 2610 Bayview Dr. 3BD/2BA

Open Sat & Sun 2-4 510-748-1108

Gallagher & Lindsey Bill Bissett

\$599,000 3106 Washington St. 3+BD

Open Sun 2-4:30 510-522-5827/521-1647

Bayside Real Estate Mark Wyman/Quinn Stone

\$600,000 2106 Alameda Ave 4BD/2BA

Open Sun 2-4 510-612-6567

Broker, Jerry

\$626,000 505 Ironwood Rd 4BD/2.5BA

Open Sat & Sun 2-4 510-814-4824

Harbor Bay Realty Darin Vinai

Alameda

\$629,000 1069 Gardenia Terrace 4BD/4BA

Open Sun 2-4 510-748-1170

Gallagher & Lindsey John Selbach

\$649,000 2824 Bayview Dr. 4BD/2.5BA

Open Sat & Sun 2-4 510-748-1103/748-1127

Gallagher & Lindsey Signe Nelson/Debra Gorman

\$649,000 2913 Bayview Dr. 3BD/2.5BA

Open Sat & Sun 2-4 510-865-1635/864-8410

Kane & Associates Lois Hoffman/Andrew Raskopf

\$658,000 2147 Encinal Ave. 4+BD/3BA

Open Sun 2-4:30 510-539-4000

Montclair Better Homes Loc Nguyen

\$688,000 1542 Pearl St 3BD/2.5BA

Open Sun 2-4 510-685-0000

Gallagher & Lindsey Dennis Keefe

\$688,000 2117 Encinal Ave 4BD/3BA

Open Sat & Sun 2-4 510-747-1620

Gallagher & Lindsey Moon Tam

\$689,000 2160 Buena Vista 3+BD/1+BA

Open Sun 2-4 510-521-5210

Centennial Real Estate Linda Larkin

\$689,000 3042 Thompson Ave 3BD/2BA

Open Fri 6-8, Sat & Sun 2-4 510-748-1110/748-1103

Gallagher & Lindsey Ron Bang/Signe Nelson

\$695,000 152 Capetown Dr 3BD/2.5BA

Open Sat & Sun 2-4 510-814-4887

Harbor Bay Realty Ramon Dumaguin

\$709,000 1 Cotelia Ct. 4BD/2.5BA

Open Sun 2-4 510-814-4821

Elaine Millen

\$749,000 1108 Oak St 6BD/3BA

Open Sun 2-4:30 510-337-8670

Prudential CA Realty Lillian Liao

\$785,000 1625 Korman 4BD/3BA

Open Sun 2-4 510-814-8554

Harbor Bay Realty Donn Gutierrez

\$795,000 2029 Yorkshire Pl. 4BD/2.5BA

Open Sat & Sun 2-4 510-748-1117/748-1170

Gallagher & Lindsey Don Patterson/John Selbach

\$1,300,000 1232 St. Charles St. 4BD/2.5BA

Open Sun 2-4:30 510-523-6058

Kane & Associates Hanna Fry

\$449,000 938 Jackson St 2BD/2BA

Open Sun 2-4 510-851-9888

Prudential Ca Realty Wendy T. Louie

\$525,000 1314 Marin Ave 2BD/1BA

Open Sun 2-4 510-292-2014

Red Oak Realty Annalise Demuth

\$549,000 726-8 San Carlos Ave -/-

Open Sun 2-5 Duplex 510-280-2137

Red Oak Realty Francesco Papalia

\$569,000 1452 Portland Ave 3BD/2BA

Open Sun 2-4 510-527-2700 X39

Marvin Gardens Merilee Carter

\$599,000 3106 Washington St. 3+BD

Open Sun 2-4:30 510-522-5827/521-1647

Bayside Real Estate Mark Wyman/Quinn Stone

\$600,000 2106 Alameda Ave 4BD/2BA

Open Sun 2-4 510-612-6567

Broker, Jerry

\$615,000 851 Washington Ave 4+BD/2BA

Open Sun 2-4 510-280-2155

Red Oak Realty Josh Levine

Prime Kensington Property 1647 Oak View Avenue



A stunning Mediterranean with classic 1920's quality and artistic contemporary refinements. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, detached 2 room studio with half bath. Quiet ambiance in a verdant setting and steps away from urban amenities!

Offered at \$745,000



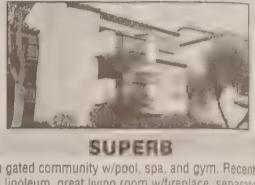
Arlene Acuña
Broker Associate
510-869-5851

2 New Listings



371 CALIFORNIA AVE., PITTSBURG

#423 - Tastefully remodeled, new roof, dual pane windows, interior paint. New bathroom fixtures. Kitchen remodeled. Close to shopping, freeways.



SUPERB

#429 - Condo in gated community w/pool, spa, and gym. Recently painted newer carpets & linoleum, great living room w/fireplace, separate garage & view of Bay & City

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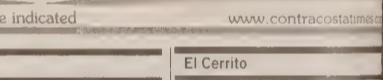


Offered at \$715,000

Carla Buffington
SALES ASSOCIATE
510-338-1367
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Just Listed!
1601 Heather Ridge Way
Located in the Montclair neighborhood of Oakland this spacious traditional home offers a peaceful and tranquil setting. The open and bright family room looks out to a wonderful wooded view with a large level yard below.

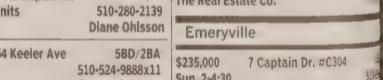
• 4 Bedrooms • 3 Baths • Family Room • Updated Kitchen & Baths • Master Retreat



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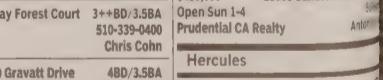
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2213 Oak Creek Place
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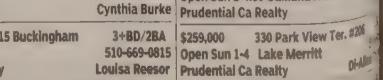
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Millstein & Associates



Offered at \$715,000

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Security Pacific R.E.

Offered at \$715,000

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Just Listed!
1383 Hull Lane
Open Sun 1-4
Prudential CA Realty

Offered at \$715,000

Carla Buffington

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Oakland		Oakland		Oakland		Orinda	
1707 65th Avenue	2+BD/1BA 510-530-6330 Howard Kane	\$425,000 492 Staten #303 Sun. 2-4:30 Lake Merritt C21 Heritage Real Estate	2BD 2BA 510-339-8900 Tom Erwin	\$615,000 8866 Skyline Blvd Open Sun 1-4 Montclair Maison Nouveau	3BD 2BA 510-849-9900 Heather Sittig	\$889,000 7455 Woodrow Drive Sun. 2-4:30pm Montclair Pacific Union Real Estate	3+BD 2.5BA 510-338-1302 Nancy Moore
10 Moss Avenue	2BD/2BA 510-339-4700 Reva Tolbert	\$429,000 634 61st St. Sun. 2-4:30pm Pacific Union Real Estate	3+BD/2+BA 510-338-1381 Tom Nemeth	\$625,000 4520 Harbord Drive Sun. 1:30-4:30 Rockridge Coldwell Banker	3BD 1BA 510-339-4700 Joan Duffield	\$899,000 35 Agnes Open Sun 2-4:30 Upper Rockridge Prudential Ca Realty	4BD 3BA 510-428-0900 Barbara McQuaid
3144 Pleiter Ave	2+BD 1BA 510-748-1161, 748-1164 Jim Nations/Justin Francis	\$434,950 4750 Scotia Avenue Sat. & Sun. 12-3 Valley Properties	3BD/2BA 925-454-2403 Judi Irwin	\$625,000 475 Jean Street Sun 2-4:30pm Grand Lake The Grubb Co.	4BD 2BA 510-339-0400 Dana Cohen	\$899,000 7067 Skyline Blvd. Sun. 2-4:30pm Montclair Pacific Union Real Estate	4+BD/3BA 510-338-1308 Dick Cohen
7431 Lockwood St	2BD/1BA 510-339-9290 Andreas Furter	\$439,000 3857 Coolidge Ave Open Sun 2-4:30pm Dimond Prudential Ca Realty	3BD/2BA 510-834-2010 Sandy Wong	\$635,000 9120 Skyline Blvd. Sun. 2-4:30 Montclair Coldwell Banker	4BD 3BA 510-339-4700 Lyndia Naylo	\$899,900 7401 Woodrow Dr Open 12-4PM Broker	4BD/3%BA 925-97-0297
730 29th St #7	---/--- Sara Garabedian	\$445,000 6314 Majestic Avenue Sun. 2-4:30 2 Millsmount	2BD/1BA 510-339-4700 Karyn Selby-Miller	\$649,000 6646 Heather Ridge Way Sun. 2-5 Montclair	3+BD 2.5BA 510-339-4700 Joan Alford	\$949,000 35 Bay Forest Court Sun 2-4:30pm The Grubb Co.	3++BD 3.5BA 510-339-0400 Chris Cohn
325 Lenox #108	2BD/1.5BA 510-845-0211 Debra Alber	\$450,000 941 Bancroft Way Sat. & Sun. 12-4 Help-U-Sell East Bay	4BD/2BA 510-251-6000 Tony Wright	\$649,000 1636 Trestle Glen Road Sun 2-4:30pm Crocker Highlands	2+BD/1BA 510-339-0400 Judith Cain	\$970,000 6773 Sobrante Rd Open Sun 2-4:30pm Montclair Prudential Ca Realty	3+BD/2.5BA 510-339-2900 Kris Makris
2230 Havenscourt Blvd	2BD/1BA 510-428-0900 Ted Normart	\$452,000 668 42nd Street Sun. 2-4:30pm Wells & Bennett Realtors	3+BD 2BA 510-531-7006 x235 Frank Hennefer	\$649,000 373 4th Street #2A Sun. 2-4:30pm Wells & Bennett Realtors	18D. 1BA 510-531-7000 x232 Tracy Butler	\$995,000 5941 Pinewood Road Sun. 2-4:30pm Montclair Pacific Union Real Estate	4BD 3.5BA 510-338-1305 Teri Carlisle
2230 Havens Ct	2BD/1BA 510-845-0211 Ted Normart	\$459,000 6211 Valley View Sun. 12-4 Montclair	2BD/2BA 510-339-4700 Sandy Acker	\$649,000 5436 Locksley Avenue Sun. 2-5pm Rockridge	3BD 1BA 925-855-4109 Betsy Tan	\$1,049,000 5781 Buena Vista Ave. Sun 2-4:30pm Upper Rockridge	4BD 3BA 510-339-0400 The Grubb Co.
281 - 55th St.	2BD/1BA 510-339-4700 Liat Bostick	\$469,000 9310 Golf Links Rd. Montclair Better Homes	4BD 2BA 510-339-4550 Nahid Nassiri	\$656,000 1580 Trestle Glen Rd Open Sun 2-5 Crocker Highlands	3BD. 1BA 510-824-2010 Dolores Thom	\$1,089,000 1293 Sunnysills Road Sun 2-4:30pm Crocker Highlands	4BD. 2.5BA 510-339-0400 The Grubb Co.
2944 Minna Ave	2+BD/1BA 510-868-1540 Eric Wong	\$479,000 3937 Rhoda Ave. Sun. 2-4:30pm Lincoln Heights	2BD/2BA 510-338-1354 Jennie A. Flanagan	\$669,000 338 Warwick Avenue Sun 2-4:30pm Adams Point	2BD 510-339-0400 Anne Feste	\$1,095,000 6820 Thornhill Dr Open Sun 2-4:30 Montclair	4+BD/4BA 510-339-9290 Prudential Ca Realty
3220 - 64th Ave. Pl.	2BD/1BA 510-339-4000 Better Homes	\$479,000 736 56th St. Sun. 2-4:30 Gene Robinson	3BD. 1BA 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker	\$675,000 299 Elysian Fields Sun. 2-4:30pm Sequoyah Highlands	3BD 2.5BA 510-569-3499 Richardson R.E. Svcs. Georgia Richardson	\$1,150,000 143 Calvert Court Sun 2-4:30pm The Grubb Co.	3BD 2.5BA 510-339-0400 Chris Cohn
3 Embarcadero #267	2BD 925-280-4109 Kathleen West	\$479,500 2920 Harrison St Open Sun 2-4:30 Lake Merritt	4BD/3BA 510-834-2010 A. McCulloch	\$675,000 4349 Briar Cliff Rd Open Sun 2-4:30 Oakland Hills	4BD 4BA 510-339-9290 Prudential Ca Realty	\$1,175,000 195 Roble Road Sun 2-4:30pm Rockridge	3+BD 2.5BA 510-339-0400 The Grubb Co.
400 Wayne Ave. #5	2BD/2BA 510-531-7000 x235 Patsy Buhler	\$485,000 4150 Maynard Ave. Sun. 2-4:30pm Richardson R.E. Svcs.	3BD. 1.5BA 510-569-3499 Georgia Richardson	\$675,000 6248 Manoa Sun. 2-5 Rockridge	3BD. 1.5BA 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker	\$1,245,000 15 Live Oak Rd. Sun. 2-5 Claremont Heights	4+BD 3.5BA 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker
3414 Laguna St	2+BD/1BA 510-464-1185 Heather Sandford	\$489,000 22 Sereno Circle Sun 2-4:30 Oakland Hills	2+BD/2BA 510-339-4565 Montclair Better Homes	\$679,000 591 Valle Vista Ave Open Sun 2-4:30 Grand Lake	4+BD 3BA 510-849-9900 Maison Nouveau	\$1,295,000 152 Taurus Open Sat 2-4/ Sun 1-4 McGuire Real Estate	5BD/3.5BA 415-385-3499 Robin Dustan
3015 Myrtle #7	1BD/1BA 510-339-9290 Co Reality	\$489,000 4134 Harbor View Ave Open Sun 2-4:30 Laurel	2BD/2BA 510-834-2010 Prudential Ca Realty	\$688,000 4974 Stoneridge Court OPEN SUN. 1:30-4:30 Remax Executive	3BD. 2.5BA 510-636-1980 Ruth Chiu, Agt.	\$1,295,000 5352 Hilltop Crescent Sun 2-5 Upper Rockridge	4+BD 3.8BA 510-339-5775 Montclair Better Homes Michael Thompson
4178 Culver duplex	---/--- 510-868-1446 Art White	\$489,000 628 55th St Open Sun 2-4:30 North Oakland	3BD. 1.5BA 510-339-9290 Prudential Ca Realty	\$689,000 201 3rd St Open Sun 1-4 Jack London Square	2BD/1BA 510-339-9290 Hope Broderick	\$1,295,000 152 Taurus Open Sun 2-4pm Red Oak Realty	5BD/3.5BA 415-385-3499 Marci Guay
2250 Lake Shore Ave. #5	2BD/2BA 510-339-4700 Jeffrey Neidleman	\$495,000 1320 Lake Chabot Rd. Sun. 2-5 Lake Chabot	2BD. 1.5BA 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker	\$697,000 4102 Gilbert St. Fenton Realtors	2BD/1BA 925-935-0422 Bob Fenton	\$1,390,000 1972 Bywood Drive Sun 2-4:30pm The Grubb Co.	4BD 2.5BA 510-339-0400 Susanne Paul
5427 Brookdale	2BD/1BA 510-814-4873 Maryann N. Valentine	\$495,000 4527 Tulip Ave. Sun 2-4:30 Oakland Hills	3+BD/3BA 510-482-9000 Montclair Better Homes	\$698,000 8040 Broadway Terrace Sun. 2-5 Montclair	2+BD/2-BA 510-339-4700 Elena Stone	\$1,495,000 6877 Elverton Sun. 2-4:30 Oakland Hills	3++BD/4.5BA 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker
3419 65th Ave	3BD/1.5BA 510-550-4500 Jacquelyn Carter	\$499,000 411 62nd Street Sun 2-4:30pm Lower Rockridge	2BD/1BA 510-652-2133 Carolyn Jones	\$695,000 4400 Moraga Open Sun 1:30-4:30 Remax East Bay Hills	3BD. 2BA 510-595-7699 Dave Higgins	\$1,549,000 6151 Acacia Avenue Sun 2-4:30pm Claremont Pines	4BD. 4BA 510-339-0400 Elizabeth Dickinson
323 Monte Vista #210	2BD/2BA 510-338-1358 John Hause	\$519,000 4654 Redwood Road Sun 2-4:30pm Oakland Hills	2BD/2.5BA 510-339-0400 The Grubb Co.	\$699,000 5668 Buena Vista Ave. Sun. 2-4:30pm Upper Rockridge	3+BD/2.5BA 510-338-1364 Cindy Houts	\$1,589,000 5499 Golden Gate Ave. Sun. 2-4:30pm Upper Rockridge	4+BD. 3.5BA 510-338-1368 Ashley O'Neill
435 44th St	3BD/1.5BA 510-339-9290 Michael Stephens	\$525,000 5681 Cheiton Dr. Sun. 2-4 Montclair	2BD. 1.5BA 510-339-4567 Montclair Better Homes	\$709,000 6651 Heartwood Dr. Sun. 1:30-4:30 Montclair	3BD. 2.5BA 510-339-9778 Rosie Nyaether	\$1,599,000 765 Lassen St Open Sat 2-4/ Sun 1-4 Prudential Ca Realty	5BD/3.5BA 510-869-5046 Kathleen Wilson
1004 Aileen Street	2BD/1BA 510-251-6000 Tony Wright	\$535,000 563 58th St. Sun 2-4:30 Idora Park	2BD/2BA 510-339-4000 Montclair Better Homes	\$71,000 6601 Heather Ridge Way Sun. 2-5 Montclair	4+BD 3BA 510-339-1367 Carla Buffington	\$3,299,000 3725 Esmond Ave. Sun. 2-4 15 Live Oak Rd.	2BD 1BA 510-486-1495 Kimiiko Terry
280 Caldecott Lane #209	2BD/2BA 510-338-1370 Charlotte Boyle	\$539,000 3720 Linwood Avenue Sun 2-4:30pm Glenview	3BD/2BA 510-339-0400 The Grubb Co.	\$729,950 2411 Potomac Street Sun 12-4 510-251-6000	4BD. 2.5BA 510-339-4700 Tony Wright	\$3,699,000 1832 Shasta St Open Sun 2-4 Marvin Gardens	3BD/2BA 510-292-3056 Anita & Alice Wilson
2415 Damuth Avenue	2+BD/1BA 510-339-0400 Jill Carrigan	\$539,000 771 54th St. Sun. 2-4:30pm Fourplex	2+BD/2BA 510-251-6000 Help-U-Sell East Bay	\$73,000 1365 Alvarado Road Sun 2-4:30pm Claremont	3BD 2.5BA 510-339-0400 Tricia Swift	\$3,899,000 1201 Melville Sq., #208 Sun. 1-4 Marina Bay	3BD. 2BA 510-486-1495 Catherine Varnay
625 El Dorado #401	2+BD/2BA 510-845-0211 Jay Lean	\$549,000 6622 Sobrante Rd Open Sun 2-4:30 Montclair	2+BD/1+BA 510-834-2010 Dolores Thom	\$74,000 152 Glenwood Glade Sun. 2-4:30pm Harbor Bay Realty	3BD. 1BA 510-523-1344 Karlin Ingeman Fox	\$3,999,000 427 31st Open Sun 1-4 Security Pacific R.E.	3BD 1.5BA 510-757-5379 Bing Pierce
2428 Piedmont Ave	2+BD/2BA 510-845-0211 Diane Ohlsson	\$549,000 3985 Rhoda Ave. Open Sat 1-4	2+BD/3+BA 510-415-3605 Garvin Lee	\$749,000 6218 View Crest Dr Open Sun 2-4:30 Ridgemont	3+BD 2.5BA 510-845-0211 Barbara Hopper	\$439,500 3151 Chaparral Ct Open Sun 1-4 Prudential Ca Realty	3BD/2.5BA 510-339-9290 Mariedda Grynblat
6481 Benvenue Ave #4	---	\$558,000 2413 Potomac Street Sun. 2-4:30pm Lincoln Heights	4BD/3BA 510-338-1355 Pacific Union Real Estate	\$749,000 1601 Mountain Blvd. Sun. 2-4:30pm Montclair	3+BD 2.5BA 510-339-4557 Jack Brennenman	\$439,888 777 Yuba Open Sun 1-4 Security Pacific R.E.	4+BD 2.5BA 510-662-6852 Cynthia Burke
2627 Minna Avenue	2BD/1BA 510-339-4000 Better Homes	\$558,000 3985 Rhoda Ave. Open Sat 1-4	2+BD/3+BA 510-415-3605 Garvin Lee	\$759,000 44 Schooner Hill Sun. 2-4:30 510-339-4700	3+BD 2.5BA 510-339-4700 Becky Anderson	\$450,000+ 426 27th St. Sun 12-5 20 Condos	-BD -BA 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker
301 Caldecott Lane #110	2BD/2BA 510-652-2133 Helene Barkin	\$575,000 1773 Indian Way Sun. 2-4:30pm Montclair	3BD/2BA 510-339-4550 Montclair Better Homes	\$760,000 1601 Hiller Highlands Sun. 2-4:30pm Montclair	3+BD 2.5BA 510-339-4557 Jack Brennenman	\$450,000+ 426 27th St. Sun 12-5 20 Condos	-BD -BA 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker
3927 Maybell Ave.	3 BD/1 BA 510-206-1753 Lynne Hildebrand	\$579,000 3914 Woodruff Open Sun 2-4:30 Glenview	2BD/2BA 510-339-9290 Hope Broderick	\$768,000 1601 Mountain Blvd. Sun 2-4:30pm Montclair	3+BD 2.5BA 510-339-4557 Dawn Lancaster	\$450,000+ 426 27th St. Sun 12-5 20 Condos	-BD -BA 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker
8221 Ney Ave.	3+BD/2BA 510-339-4000 Better Homes	\$595,000 1773 Indian Way Sun. 2-4:30pm Montclair	3BD/2BA 510-338-1308 Pacific Union Real Estate	\$780,000 44 Schooner Hill Sun. 2-4:30pm Montclair	3+BD 2.5BA 510-339-4700 Keith Tollass	\$450,000+ 426 27th St. Sun 12-5 20 Condos	-BD -BA 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker
1016 Chester	3+BD/2BA + in- 11-11: Sun 2-4	\$599,000 3131 Wisconsin Sun. 2-5 Laurel	4BD/1.5BA 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker	\$789,000 1616 Valley View Rd. Sun. 2-4:30pm Montclair	3BD. 2.5BA 510-339-8900 Andrea Gordon	\$450,000+ 426 27th St. Sun 12-5 20 Condos	-BD -BA 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker
3901 Keller Ave	3BD/2BA King Estates	\$610,000 5959 Balboa Drive Sun. 2-4:30pm Montclair	3BD/2BA 510-338-1319 Pacific Union Real Estate	\$797,000 516 Valle Vista Sun. 2-4:30pm Grand Lake	4BD. 1.5BA 510-339-8900 Holly Fitzsimmons	\$450,000+ 426 27th St. Sun 12-5 20 Condos	-BD -BA 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker
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ALBANY

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527-2700x39

BERKELEY

1295 Francisco Street

\$439,000

A REAL SWEETHEART! Ideally located in North Berkeley this lovely home is near 4th Street shops, bike paths, parks & a brief walk to BART. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, Plank floors, fireplace, eat-in kitchen, plus room/office, private yard. Don't miss

Open Sunday 2-4

David Bigelow

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(510) 527-9111

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RICHMOND ANNEX

1832 Shasta Street

Sunny home with bay view. Gracious room with fireplace. Two bedrooms, one bathroom downstairs needs little work. Near shops and freeway access.

Open Sunday 2-4

Anita and Alice Wilson

BERKELEY

1127 Delaware

Bright & spacious craftsman bungalow featuring many original details. Spacious front room, formal dining room, kitchen, back deck, and a large back yard.

Open Sunday 2-4

Melissa Eisenberg

BERKELEY

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Open Sunday 2-4

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2418 5th Street

SPORTS

• Friday, October 31, 2003 •

Section C

Berkeley survives defensive struggle

PREP FOOTBALL

both defenses rose to the occasion but neither offense could move the ball consistently.

The loss was especially painful for Pinole Valley, which still is searching for its first Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League win. The Spartans (1-6, 0-4 ACCAL) outgained Berkeley offensively but never were able to find the end zone.

Including Burley's touchdown, Pinole Valley lost three fumbles, each of which seemed to occur when the team was finally driving. At other times, the Spartans literally went backward, racking up seven offsides penalties in the first half.

Pinole Valley's best chance to

score came in the game's final minute, after Trae Gates returned a Yellow Jackets punt 70 yards to bring the team within striking distance. A pass interference call and a short run brought the Spartans to a third-and-five situation at the 7-yard line with only 50 seconds left on the clock, but a lineman jumped offsides, forcing the team to throw. Lopez's final two passes fell incomplete, as he finished 0-for-5 on the night.

"All we could do was run the ball," a dejected Pinole coach Steve Alameda said. "Luckily, we've got a good defense that kept us in the game."

The inspired Spartans defense held Berkeley (5-1, 4-0) to only 30 yards in the second half and caused three turnovers on the night.

In one instance, Yellow Jackets' leading rusher Antoine Cokes, who finished with 92 yards and accounted for two-thirds of the team's offense, broke a 35-yard run and had only one man to beat. Unfortunately for Berkeley, that one man was Pinole Valley star defensive back Wopamo Osaisai, who promptly knocked the ball loose.

"Hats off to Pinole; they played one hell of a game," Berkeley coach Matt Bissell said. "We couldn't do what we wanted to and didn't do much at all."

The Yellow Jackets struggled offensively as well, managing only two first downs in the second half. Quarterback Jeff Spellman finished 2-of-10 for 9 yards,

See FOOTBALL, Page 2



EDDIE LE DISMA/STAFF

PINOLE VALLEY'S Wopamo Osaisai, left, tackles Aaron Miles during their ACCAL football game. Berkeley won 7-0.

Yellow Jackets' lone comes on a fumble in out of Pinole Valley

By Ian M. Fein
STAFF WRITER

BERKELEY — The Berkeley School football team defeated Pinole Valley 7-0 in a defensive battle last Friday night, the Yellow Jackets' only win coming on a first-quarter fumble return by defensive lineman Daniel Burley.

Indeed, Burley did not so

recover a fumble as steal

it right from Spartans

linebacker Anthony Lopez and score on the touchdown.

It may seem to serve as a

minor for the game, in which

AL NOTEBOOK

Hornets put it together to in crown

By Phil Jensen
STAFF WRITER

Alameda High School boys water polo team had a strong core of seniors returning this season.

Other things had to fall into place for the Hornets to do what they did: an undefeated Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League season, an ACCAL tournament title and an automatic berth in the North Coast Conference tournament.

The Hornets needed a hole set they found one in Travis Mi-

ned a couple guys there all of the sudden. Travis having success," Alameda Robert Rodd said. "He became a really good hole set."

Alameda was also using a senior goalie in senior Jordan who impressed Rodd this season.

It was clear we were set at Rodd said.

Speed wasn't a question

ave three guys who are 50 or better in the 100 free," said. "We just try to use a flag reaction. We can't try to counter-attack. There's a transition, ready as a team goes to the end."

The Hornets also have experience. Five of the seven starters

See ACCAL, Page 2

AL NOTEBOOK

lock call

ks off

ingles coach

By Orlando Molina
STAFF WRITER

Kennedy High School football coach Matty Felder doesn't mind losing his boys give 100 percent. But he does mind it in chances for his team to be taken away.

That was the case on Oct. 26 during a 40-6 loss to Piedmont in Bay Shore Athletic League play.

The game was not pretty from start as the Highlanders' Jason Paris ran all over the field for 90 yards and four touchdowns, one of which came in a tie, to take a 40-0 lead at

The Eagles didn't get on the board until the nine minute of the fourth quarter.

After all of the Eagles' problems with the ball, Felder reflected understanding. What drew the usually mellow Felder to a decision to have the second game without a running clock without consulting.

Felder said the decision was made by Kennedy athletic director Darryl Creighton. Attempts by Creighton were unsuccessful.

We fight to the end. I don't know if the score is, we want to run the clock down on our

See BSAL, Page 2

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE 'D'



MARK DUFRANE/STAFF

EL CERRITO'S defensive line of, from left, Tyson Quink, Eric Johnson, Erik Howard and Charles Towers, averages 286 pounds.

Defense fuels Gauchos' surge

After a stumbling start, El Cerrito's veteran defensive unit has helped put the team in ACCAL title contention

By Orlando Molina
STAFF WRITER

If one asks the defensive players of the El Cerrito High School football team what they think of their effort this season, they'll tell you it's simply a work in progress.

But upon closer inspection, despite returning nine of 11 starters from last year, the Gauchos defense has had to dig a little deeper to overcome stumbling blocks and progress into one of the league's stingiest units.

The Gauchos started the season on the wrong foot, going winless in three of their first four games, including a scoreless tie with Castlemont. But with every narrow win and heartbreaking loss, Gauchos coach George Austin has found steppingstones

for each of his players.

"You have to have a short memory (as a player), and as a coach you have to give them something to hang their hats on," he said. "That Castlemont game was a very tough, well-played game. We did all we should have done. Our defense shut them down. That day I knew we could play defense."

The Gauchos feature what is arguably the ACCAL's biggest four-man front in Erik Howard, Charles Towers, Eric Johnson and Tyson Quink, who average 6-foot-2 and 286 pounds. Howard alone tips the scales at 330 pounds.

But size and weight without a working scheme rarely lead to success.

Since taking over for Frank Milo two seasons ago, Austin switched from a five-man front to the current four-man format. He figured his starting quartet was big and agile enough to stuff the run and put heat on opposing quarterbacks to free up his linebackers to cover the flats.

As a result, the secondary switched from zone to man coverage, Austin said. He also made sure that his players approached each play with more aggression as opposed to their previous style of read and react.

So far the change has helped, benefiting players such as free safety James Cannon, strong safety Rafael Warren and cor-

"We definitely shut down the run. People used to run on us, but we got it together," Quink said.

But in addition to a solid line, it also takes a great secondary to put up the wins.

Taking on Alameda in the league opener Oct. 3, the Gauchos found this out the hard way. The secondary was torched for 219 yards passing with touchdown tosses of 23, 26, 38, and 36 yards in a 25-6 loss.

Alameda was a turning point. We got exposed and we had to regroup," Austin said. "That was the only game I can point to and say they stopped playing. The guys started to doubt themselves."

As a result, the secondary switched from zone to man coverage, Austin said. He also made sure that his players approached each play with more aggression as opposed to their previous style of read and react.

So far the change has helped, benefiting players such as free safety James Cannon, strong safety Rafael Warren and cor-

nerback Tyron Johnson. Austin said his secondary no longer plays on its heels and refuses to let the opposition dictate the outcome.

Since that debacle against Alameda, the Gauchos have won their last three contests while the defense has given up 28 points over the three games. One of those wins was a shutout of Hercules last week.

"There's unity on the team," said Howard. "We play together as a unit and get our assignments done."

El Cerrito is tied for second place with Encinal in the ACCAL standings, with three games to play. Two of those remaining games are against the Jets and league leader Berkeley.

El Cerrito takes on Richmond at home this afternoon at 4. But while not trying to look past the winless Oilers, the Gauchos know they've come a long way and the big tests are yet to come.

"The coach wants us to go for excellence," Howard said, "We haven't peaked, yet."

BRIEFS

Cal water polo camp

The Cal Water Polo coaching staff will be offering a advanced water polo camp for players ages 13-18 Dec. 20-28 at the Speiker Aquatic Complex on the Cal Berkeley campus. For information call 510-643-4730 or 510-643-2499, or visit www.calbears.com.

Cal winter baseball clinics

The Cal Intercollegiate Athletics Baseball coaching staff will be offering hitting, pitching and catcher clinics for ages 9-17 on the Cal Berkeley campus Nov. 29-30 and Dec. 27-28. For information or to receive a brochure call 510-643-2499 or visit www.calbears.com.

Youth Australian rules football registration and coaching clinic

Registrations are currently being accepted for the Youth Australian

Rules Football winter league for boys and girls ages 10-15. Saturday matches will be held in Walnut Creek from Dec. 6-Feb. 7. A coaching clinic will be held for parents and teachers at Walnut Creek Intermediate School Dec. 4-5 at 4 p.m. and Dec. 6 at 10 a.m. For information call 925-945-7819.

Rowers wanted

Berkeley High School crew is looking for BHS students interested in competitive rowing. Consult the club's Web site at www.berkeleyhighcrew.org, or contact the coaches through the Berkeley High athletic department. Berkeley High is one of only two high schools in California offering rowing as a competitive sport.

International volleyball

The Goodwill Ambassadors are

currently accepting applications for volleyball players ages 15-20, male and female, to participate in the 2004 Goodwill Ambassadors Volleyball exchange to Europe.

Members of this team will represent their country, community and the Goodwill Ambassadors teams, in volleyball tournaments and local competitions in London, Paris, Geneva, Venice and Rome.

For additional information, call 425-255-8102. Or consult the Web Site at www.volleyballtours.com or contact by e-mail at info@sportsforyouth.com or info@volleyballtours.com.

Emery High School seeks coaches

Emery High School in Emeryville is looking for varsity and junior varsity basketball, varsity baseball and varsity softball coaches. For information e-mail athletic director Jim McCray at jamesmccray@emeryusd.k12.ca.us.

Meet the Bears

Meet the Bears Day will be held Nov. 8 in Haas Pavilion at the Cal campus from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Events include a chance to meet this year's Golden Bear's Women's Basketball Team, a continental breakfast, basketball clinic and an autograph session with team members. This is a free event open to all students in grades 12 and under. For information call 510-642-9448.

Emery High School seeks basketball games

Emery High School in Emeryville is looking for pre-season boys varsity and junior varsity basketball games. For information e-mail athletic director Jim McCray at jamesmccray@emeryusd.k12.ca.us.

Meet the Bears

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PREP VOLLEYBALL

Panthers can't outlast the Pilots

By Scott Strain

STAFF WRITER

It ain't over 'til it's over, but the fortunes of the St. Joseph Notre Dame girls volleyball team are looking pretty good after the Pilots defeated St. Mary's 25-23, 18-25, 25-16, 25-23 Monday night in Alameda.

St. Joseph (20-3, 10-1 in the Bay Shore Athletic League) is tied with Albany for the league lead. The Pilots have one BSAL game left — Tuesday at Piedmont; the other contenders — Albany (10-1) and St. Mary's (9-2) have two games left.

If the current standings hold true to form — and they should — St. Joseph's would end Albany's nine-year run of league championships and would have the home gym advantage throughout the BSAL playoffs, which start Nov. 11.

It's a big advantage. "We haven't lost at home all year," Pilots coach Marcus Young said after Ashley Mihok's match-winning kill put the capper on St. Joseph's win in the fourth game. "It's a huge advantage for us."

The Pilots lost at St. Mary's in five games on Sept. 23 and were taken to five games by Holy Names on Oct. 23 after sweeping Albany in three games on Oct. 21. St. Mary's had lost only to Albany and was hoping that its tall front line could negate the Pilots' quickness.

"We had to attack on the outside," Young said. "If we get the ball in the middle, we'd get the ball blocked right back at us."

That strategy worked for the most part. The Pilots were able to take an 11-3 lead in the first game, capping an eight-point run when Sabrina Sudarsana managed a kill after a long rally. The Panthers, however, were able to direct the ball back into the middle where Natalie Bogan, Martha Ryan and Brittany Murray could overwhelm the smaller Pilots. A kill by Brianne Redman and one by Ryan helped bring St. Mary's back for a 15-14 lead.

Tied at 17-17, the Panthers forged ahead 21-17 with the help of a kill by Ryan, two aces from Aleasha Woodruff and a tip by Murray. St. Joseph regained its momentum by turning to Sabrina Sudarsana, the Pilots' best player. All she did was get four kills (sister Kerri had one) to regain the lead at 22-21. The Panthers tied the game at 22-22, but Kerri Sudarsana had a kill, the Panthers suffered a net ball and Sabrina Sudarsana finished the game off with a kill.

The Panthers took control of the second game by racing off to an 8-1 lead as Janie Barnes had three aces. St. Joseph fought back to within 8-6 as Sabrina Sudarsana capped another long rally with a kill, but the Pilots were never able to quite make it all the way back. The Panthers had runs of five, three and four points and the big tests are yet to come.

St. Joseph reversed the trend in the third game by going out to a 7-1 lead as Kerri Sudarsana had two kills and a block and Ebony Robinson had a kill. As was the case in the second game, St. Mary's was never able to close the gap.

See VOLLEYBALL, Page 2

THIS WEEK'S FOOTBALL GAMES

ACCAL**Berkeley at De Anza**

WHERE: De Anza High School, 5000 Valley View Road, Richmond

WHEN: Today, 4 p.m.

RECORDS: Berkeley 5-1, 4-0 ACCAL; De Anza 2-5, 1-3

LAST WEEK: Berkeley beat Pinole Valley 7-0, De Anza lost to Encinal 33-14

FACTS: Pinole Valley outgained the Yellow Jackets 165-139 in last week's game and Berkeley committed four turnovers. The Dons also had four turnovers in their loss to Encinal but outgained the Jets 343-169.

Richmond at El Cerrito

WHERE: El Cerrito High School, 540 Ashbury Ave.

WHEN: Today, 4 p.m.

RECORDS: Richmond 0-7, 0-4 ACCAL; El Cerrito 4-2-1, 3-1

LAST WEEK: Richmond lost to Alameda 48-0, El Cerrito beat Hercules 32-0

FACTS: It took the Ollers 58 seconds to give up a score as Hornets linebacker David Han picked off a Francisco Ruggane pass for a 30-yard touchdown to take the lead for good. The Gauchos have won their last three contests, outscoring the opposition 84-28. According to Gauchos coach George Austin, defensive lineman Tyson Quink has 10 sacks in that same three-game span.

BSAL**John Swett at St. Mary's**

WHERE: St. Mary's High School, Albinia Ave and Hopkins St., Berkeley

WHEN: Saturday, 1:30 p.m.

RECORDS: John Swett 7-0, 2-0 BSAL; St. Mary's 3-4, 1-1

LAST WEEK: John Swett beat Al-

bany 40-14, St. Mary's beat St. Patrick 14-7

FACTS: The Indians are 17-0 in regular-season games dating back to the start of the 2002 season. Panthers running back Fred Hives ranks fifth in the region in rushing with 831 yards.

Albany at Piedmont

WHERE: Witter Field, Piedmont

WHEN: Today, 7 p.m.

RECORDS: Albany 15-1, 1-1 BSAL; Piedmont 5-0, 1-0

LAST WEEK: Albany lost to John Swett 40-14, Piedmont defeated Kennedy 40-6

FACTS: The Cougars gave up 452 rushing yards to the Indians. The Highlanders have gained 403 yards on the ground in their last two games. Piedmont running back Brandon Paris has scored eight touchdowns in the past two games.

SCOREBOARD

Football**PREP****ACCAL standings**

	W	L	T	PF	PA	Ovr!
Ala	4	0	0	135	44	6-1-0
Berk	4	0	0	155	15	5-1-0
EC	3	1	0	90	52	4-2-1
Enc	3	0	1	118	79	5-1-1
Hive	1	3	0	55	130	2-6-0
PV	0	4	0	47	77	1-6-0
Rich	0	4	0	44	202	0-7-0

Today's Games

Alameda at Hercules, 3 p.m.

Berkeley at De Anza, 4 p.m.

Richmond at El Cerrito, 4 p.m.

El Cerrito at Hercules, 4 p.m.

Hornets at Pinole Valley, 4 p.m.

Pinole Valley at Albany, 4 p.m.

St. Mary's at John Swett, 4 p.m.

John Swett at St. Mary's, 1:30 p.m.

John Swett at Albany, 7 p.m.

Saturday's game

John Swett at St. Mary's, 1:30 p.m.

St. Mary's at St. Patrick, 7

St. Patrick at Albany, 7 p.m.

Albany at Piedmont, 7 p.m.

St. Patrick at Kennedy, 7 p.m.

Sunday's game

John Swett at St. Mary's, 1:30 p.m.

St. Mary's at St. Patrick, 7

St. Patrick at Albany, 7 p.m.

Albany at Piedmont, 7 p.m.

St. Patrick at Kennedy, 7 p.m.

Sunday's game

John Swett at St. Mary's, 1:30 p.m.

St. Mary's at St. Patrick, 7

St. Patrick at Albany, 7 p.m.

Albany at Piedmont, 7 p.m.

St. Patrick at Kennedy, 7 p.m.

Sunday's game

John Swett at St. Mary's, 1:30 p.m.

St. Mary's at St. Patrick, 7

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Albany at Piedmont, 7 p.m.

St. Patrick at Kennedy, 7 p.m.

Sunday's game

John Swett at St. Mary's, 1:30 p.m.

St. Mary's at St. Patrick, 7

St. Patrick at Albany, 7 p.m.

Albany at Piedmont, 7 p.m.

St. Patrick at Kennedy, 7 p.m.

Sunday's game

John Swett at St. Mary's, 1:30 p.m.

St. Mary's at St. Patrick, 7

St. Patrick at Albany, 7 p.m.

Albany at Piedmont, 7 p.m.

St. Patrick at Kennedy, 7 p.m.

Sunday's game

John Swett at St. Mary's, 1:30 p.m.

St. Mary's at St. Patrick, 7

St. Patrick at Albany, 7 p.m.

Albany at Piedmont, 7 p.m.

St. Patrick at Kennedy, 7 p.m.

Sunday's game

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PLAYING

our capsule reviews of movies as theaters. The reviewers — L.A. Times, Robert W. Butler; N.Y. Times, Steven Rea Knight; San Jose Mercury News, Glenn Lovell; San Francisco, Christy Lemire; L.A. Daily News, Sheila Norman-Culp; L.A. Times, Maureen Dowd; Matt Zoller Seitz; N.Y. Post, Anita Gates; N.Y. Daily News, Dave Karger; N.Y. Daily News, Scott New York; N.Y. Daily News, Tom Bernard; Jack Mathews; N.Y. Daily News, Evan Henerson; N.Y. Daily News, Glenn Whipp; Los Angeles Times, Manuela Dargis; Kevin Corcoran; Kenneth Turan, Los Angeles Times; Ed Bark, Nancy Churnin; N.Y. Daily News, Philip Wurtzel; Dallas Morning News; Robert Philpot; Fort Worth Telegram; Jay Boyer; Roger Ebert; Orlando Sentinel; Joe Battalke and Lynn Homan; Washington Post; Seymour, New York.

"THE DIRECTOR'S CUT": Not much has changed in this re-release of a groundbreaking film. Not much at all. Even after its original release, Scorsese's film still looks good. The special effects. No, they would be allowed to wait before killing anyone off, but it's smooth and tense, and the ending is relentless. Oh, and Sigourney Weaver is still a banquet of sweet, playful nudity and innocence. 1 hour, 56 minutes. B+

"AMERICAN SPLENDOR": This biography and comic-book writer Harvey Pekar's best feature film at Sundance is refreshingly original as its the acerbic Cleveland-based man banal inspired an offbeat tale of animation, dramatization and how that's a banquet of sweet, witty and grueling humanism. Pekar provides a three-point tour of Pekar, variously personified by magnificently irritable Paul Giamatti and comic artists like John Cusack and, and by Pekar himself, "He ain't nuttin' like me." At first Pekar's not a guy you want to be around with. But that's when he shoo you cross the street to the subway station whose tiled world enlarges your own. — M. Polis. (R; language, strong language.) 1 hour, 41 minutes. C+

"NO BORDERS": Far be it for us to overlook this flick's message about the desperate needs of the world sick and starving people in

OPENING TODAY

"CITY OF GOD" (R)

True story of a young man who grew up on the streets of Rio de Janeiro's most notorious slum, called "City of God." (Re-release).

"THE GATEKEEPER" (R)

The story of a Mexican-American Border Patrol agent's struggle between conscience and self-loathing.

"THE HUMAN STAIN" (R)

A screen adaptation of Phillip Roth's novel about a college professor (Anthony Hopkins) haunted by a dark secret that comes to light when he gets involved with a much younger woman (Nicole Kidman).

"IN THE CUT" (R)

Meg Ryan plays a college profes-

sor who gets pulled into a murder investigation, in part because of her attraction to the lead detective in the case (Mark Ruffalo). Based on Susanna Moore's novel.

"DIE MOMMIE DIE!" (R)

A homage to Hollywood "women's films" from the '40s through the '60s that borrows from such chestnuts as "Now Voyager" and "Hush ... Hush, Sweet Charlotte." (At the Metreon, S.F. only).

Opens Saturday**"BROTHER BEAR"** (G)

Animated tail of brotherhood, bears and outdoor adventures from Disney. With music by Phil Collins.

Third World countries. But the outfits donned by our heroine Sarah (Angelina Jolie) are not beyond mockery. To save lives in Africa, she's in all white linen, in Cambodia, sleek black, for Chechnya, a fur hat that Audrey Hepburn would have adored. All these shifting locales and outfits make this love story, co-starring Clive Owen as a rebellious doctor, who gives this socialist's life sudden meaning, feel like an overly long episode of "Alias," with fewer guns and a social conscience. — M. Polis. (R; language, war-related violence.) 2 hours, 7 minutes. B+

"THE FIGHTING TEMPTATIONS":

Cuba Gooding Jr. is Darrin Hill, a lifelong hustler who's just been fired from a job and goes home to rural Georgia to collect an inheritance. But his late aunt's will stipulates that he must take over her beloved Beulah Baptist Church before he can collect. Even though he knows nothing about music, he cons his way into the job and must get the team ready for the big game. The "team" is a choir he recruits, including Ossie Davis' mocking, salted gravitas in playing King. Here he was surgically made black — and can't go back — when he was spirited away after a 1963 assassination attempt. Bruce Campbell portrays an elderly Presley. Both are right out of a battle-ready episode of "The Golden Girls." — E. Mitchell. (R; violence, strong language.) 1 hour, 32 minutes. C-

"BUBBA HO-TEP": You can't do much better in terms of high concept than the premise for this action-comedy, which pits an elderly Elvis Presley and an old John F. Kennedy against an Egyptian undead who shambles around a retirement home sucking the souls out of victims. Unfortunately, it's a punch line in search of a setup: What fission the film generates comes from its lead performers, including Ossie Davis' mocking, salted gravitas in playing King. Here he was surgically made black — and can't go back — when he was spirited away after a 1963 assassination attempt. Bruce Campbell portrays an elderly Presley. Both are right out of a battle-ready episode of "The Golden Girls." — E. Mitchell. (R; violence, strong language.) 1 hour, 32 minutes. C-

"FINDING NEMO": Another delight of the imagination from Pixar, set under the sea, in the realm of fish who talk real estate, sharks who try to be better denizens of the deep, and lobsters named Mike, Nemo, a small clown fish, is plucked from the ocean and dropped into a fish tank in a dentist's

documentary. This time he trains his eye on foreign adoptions, a topic rich with social, political and emotional ramifications. Maggie Gyllenhaal, Daryl Hannah, Lili Taylor, Marcia Gay Harden, Susan Lynch and Mary Steenbergen are six women holed up in a hotel called Casper de los Babys, waiting for their adopted children to arrive. The ending is abrupt, in sometimes frustrating Sayles style. — M. Polis. (R; some language, brief drug use.) 1 hour, 35 minutes. B+

"INTOLERABLE CRUELTY":

A sparkling frivolity from Ethan and Joel Coen, one that makes all the recent crop of romantic comedies seem pale and humorless. George Clooney plays a slightly despicable but dashing divorce lawyer who becomes enthralled with a man-killing gold digger (Catherine Zeta-Jones). Onscreen, they have the magic and chemistry of some of our great romantic pairings, and the movie is a hoot, with just enough dark Coen brothers humor to keep it edgy. — M. Polis. (PG-13; sexual content, language and brief violence.) 1 hour, 40 minutes. A-

"KILL BILL - VOL. 1":

Pee-wee may all that is pretentious, offensive, over-indulgent and silly about Quentin Tarantino's

office in Sydney. His timid father, Marlin, travels many leagues to find him, accompanied by a dopey but very funny tang fish (voiced by Ellen DeGeneres). The ideal blend of sentiment and sparkling humor, perfect for kids, charming for parents, and so good it's likely to appeal to a few souls who are neither. — M. Polis. (G) 1 hour, 41 minutes. A-

"GIRLS WILL BE GIRLS": Three actresses struggle to make it in Hollywood; the catch is, they're all played by men. For decades now, moviegoers have seen men playing men dressed as women for plot-dependent reasons ("Tootsie," "Mrs. Doubtfire") or men playing transvestites or transsexuals ("Priscilla, Queen of the Desert"). But this offers men playing women. Period. The film is appropriately cynical, pleasantly camp and just fresh enough to be funny more often than not. — A. Gates (R; strong language, sexual situations, drug references, brief illusions of nudity.) 1 hour, 19 minutes. B-

"GOOD BOY":

Liam Aiken stars as 12-year-old Owen Baker, a misfit with a part-time job walking neighborhood dogs. He's a sad kid who has trouble making friends, until he gets a stray mutt of his own, a terrier named Hubbie. Turned Hubbie's a scoundrel from Sirius, dispatched to Earth to find out how canines sent thousands of years earlier have fared on their mission to take over the planet. A fluke accident allows Owen to understand dog-speak. The idea that dogs come from outer space to colonize Earth is cute enough, but like a collie scratching endlessly at the same flea bites, "Good Boy" claws monotonously at a few dumb gags. — D. Germain. (PG; some mild crude humor.) 1 hour, 28 minutes. C

"LUTHER":

Joseph Fiennes plays Martin Luther, the young, idealistic monk whose intellect and outrage sparked the Reformation, which brought centuries of uncontested Catholic authority in Europe grinding to a halt. The performances are fine enough, but like so many other bio-pics, this one suffers mainly from trying to cram too much detail into two hours. Yet in a sense, there's not enough. This unimaginative dramatization rarely if ever strays from a canonical, by-the-book depiction of the man. — D. Dowell. (PG-13; mild language, violence.) 1 hour, 52 minutes. C+

"MAMBO ITALIANO":

Gay and Italian — the comic possibilities of "Mambo Italiano" are mind-boggling. The reality is less so. No Godfathers and drag queens here, just a broad brace about a nice Italian boy who wants to get an apartment with another nice Italian boy in Montreal's tradition-bound Little Italy. Part of the problem is that Angelo (Luke Kirby), the narrator and son who is trying to move out of the family home, has no chemistry with Nino (Peter Miller), his alleged soulmate. Much of the movie focuses on Angelo's immigrant parents (Ginevra Renzo and Paul Sorvino) and their reaction to the brave new world of a gay son. No worries: Everything will be resolved over a fine tomato sauce. — S. Norman-Culp. (R; language, sexual situations.) 1 hour, 28 minutes. C

"MATCHSTICK MEN":

Ridley Scott should be congratulated; he's the first director in years to keep Nicolas Cage's appalling hamminess in check. Cage is actually decent here, playing an obsessive-compulsive con artist whose life gets extremely complicated when the 14-year-old daughter (Alison Lohman) he never knew he had takes an interest in the family business. Cage's tics and twitches are kept to a minimum, the rest of the cast — including Sam Rockwell as Cage's partner — is fine and the movie takes an appealing dark turn. One problem: The big plot twist is fairly transparent. — M. Polis. (PG-13; sexual elements, violence, some sexual content and language.) 2 hours, 20 minutes. C

"LUMIERE THEATRE":

1572 California St., San Francisco 415-885-3201. **Bubba Ho-Tep** (R) 3:15, 7:30, 9:45. **Dirty Pretty Things** (R) 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30. **Girls Will Be Girls** (R) 5:15. **Thirteen** (R) 2:30, 7.

"OPERA PLAZA CINEMA":

601 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco 415-771-0183. **The Gatekeeper** (Not Rated) 1:30, 4:20, 7, 9:30. **Luther** (PG-13) 3:30, 6:30, 9:10. **The Revolution Will Not Be Televised** (Not Rated) 1:15, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 9:50. **Tibet: Cry of the Snow Lion** (Not Rated) 1:40, 6:40. **Underworld** (PG-13) 2:20, 5:25, 6:45, 9:30. **Veronica Guerin** (R) 4:15, 9.

"UNITED ARTISTS EMERY BAY":

6330 Christie Ave., Emeryville 510-420-0492. **Beyond Borders** (R) 1:4, 7:10, 10:10. **Good Boy** (PG-13) 2:25, 2:50, 6, 8:45, 9:40. **The Human Stain** (R) 1:30, 4:20, 7, 9:35. **Intolerable Cruelty** (R) 1:20, 4, 6:55, 9:25. **Luther** (PG-13) 1:10, 3:50, 6:30, 9:20. **My Life Without Me** (R) 2, 4:25, 6:45. **The Revolution Will Not Be Televised** (Not Rated) 1:15, 3:10, 5:15, 7:10, 9:05. **Scary Movie 3** (PG-13) 2:15, 3:50, 8, 9:10, 10:05. **School of Rock** (PG-13) 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 9:45. **Tibet: Cry of the Snow Lion** (Not Rated) 1:40, 6:40. **Under the Tuscan Sun** (PG-13) 1:25, 4:05, 6:50, 9:30. **Veronica Guerin** (R) 4:15, 9.

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1000 St. Marys Ave., San Francisco 415-885-3201. **Beyond Borders** (R) 1:4, 7:10, 10:10. **Good Boy** (PG-13) 2:25, 2:50, 6, 8:45, 9:40. **The Human Stain** (R) 1:30, 4:20, 7, 9:35. **Intolerable Cruelty** (R) 1:20, 4, 6:55, 9:25. **Luther** (PG-13) 1:10, 3:50, 6:30, 9:20. **My Life Without Me** (R) 2, 4:25, 6:45. **The Revolution Will Not Be Televised** (Not Rated) 1:15, 3:10, 5:15, 7:10, 9:05. **Scary Movie 3** (PG-13) 2:15, 3:50, 8, 9:10, 10:05. **School of Rock** (PG-13) 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 9:45. **Tibet: Cry of**

Reviews

FROM PAGE C3

"RUNAWAY JURY": The typical formulaic John Grisham thriller where you know right will prevail, against considerable odds, but you still have fun trying to figure out precisely how. This one works because it features so much ambiguity. The only clear-cut good guy is Dustin Hoffman as an idealistic attorney challenging gun manufacturers. Gene Hackman is the shark trying to rig the jury, and John Cusack plays a prospective juror with a hidden agenda and a greedy girlfriend. Not deep, and it doesn't stretch Hackman and Hoffman's acting capacities, but suspenseful and engaging. — M. Pois. (G) 1 hour, 37 minutes A

"THE STATION AGENT": A reticent dwarf, a grieving mother and a chatty hot-dog vendor walk into a bar. Actually, they drink beer on a porch, but you get the idea. It sounds like the setup to a joke, but it's the premise of this small film bursting with insightful humor, unforced poignancy and beautifully drawn characters. Peter Dinklage, Patricia Clarkson and Bobby Cannavale vividly portray three lonely people in rural New Jersey who form an unlikely social circle, despite their antisocial tendencies. That they're all oddballs and misfits may sound a bit too precious, but writer-director Tom McCarthy has developed the characters beautifully. — C. Lemire. (R: language, some drug content.) 1 hour, 30 minutes. B+

"THE RUNDOWN": This movie is equal parts "Raiders of the Lost Ark" and "Romancing the Stone." The Rock takes us on a fun ride as Beck, a collector for an L.A. bookie. He "runs down" guys who owe money, even if they're big, beefy football stars. But Beck yearns to be a chef like his hero, Emeril. Of course there's one last job, one last client to run down — the bookie's son, Travis, played with a goofy adventurousness by Sean William Scott. The kid is hunting treasure in the Amazon and Beck goes to fetch him. The local gold-mining baron is played with baleful hilarity by that villain's villain, Christopher Walken. — R. Moore. (PG-13: adventure violence, some crude dialogue.) 1 hour, 42 minutes. B

"SCARY MOVIE 3": The Wayans brothers have passed the scary-movie spool baton to the "Airplane" guys, with tepid results. The movie has no edge, no "flava." It plays like 80 minutes of "Naked Gun" rejects, complete with an aging, less funny Leslie Nielsen, a spouting Charlie "Hot Shots" Sheen, and for good measure, Pamela Anderson. — R. Moore. (PG-13: pervasive crude and sexual humor, language, comedic violence and drug references.) 1 hour, 20 minutes. D

"SCHOOL OF ROCK": Jack Black stars as Dewey Finn in this happy, crowd-pleasing package with an offbeat, slightly demented script. He's a guitarist with delusions of being a musical deity. Fired from his latest ensemble, desperate for cash to enter a battle-of-the-bands contest and have his revenge, Dewey passes himself off as his substitute-teacher roommate (Mike White) and takes a job at a swank prep school. Put Black in a classroom of uptight, uniformed over-achievers who now have an aimless sub for a teacher, and watch the sparks fly. — R. Moore. (PG-13: rude humor and drug references.) 1 hour, 48 minutes. B+

"SPELLBOUND": This Academy Award-nominated documentary is ostensibly about the National Spelling Bee, told through the stories of eight kids who made it to the 1999 finals. But that makes it sound so dry, and this is such a passionate and engaging movie. You

fall hard for eight very distinct and somewhat peculiar children, and at the same time, are movingly reminded of all the best things about the melting pot and the American dream. Sharp, clever editing enhances the natural tension of the bee, and filmmakers Jeff Blitz and Sean Welch know how to use irony while remaining good-hearted and true to their subjects. — M. Pois. (G) 1 hour, 37 minutes A

"THIRTEEN": It's the story of two teenage girls who have just moved past stunted animals into sex, shoplifting and self-mutilation. We follow Tracy (Evan Rachel Wood) in her abrupt transformation from good girl to sullen troublemaker, under the wing of seductive bad seed Evie (Nikki Reed). Tracy's mom (played by Holly Hunter) seems clueless and overwhelmed. The story occasionally veers into melodrama. In addition to Tracy's sudden conversion to sex, drugs, piercing and purse-snatching, almost all the adults are recovering from alcohol or drug addiction. The film has been rated R, which raises one troubling question: How can a movie with so much to say to adolescent girls be made off-limits to them unless they're accompanied by a parent or guardian? — B. Newman. (R: profanity, language, drug use, scenes of self-mutilation.) 1 hour, 35 minutes. B

"TIBET: CRY OF THE SNOW LION": Tom Peosay's documentary is an impeccably made and often moving account of the captive nation of Tibet, forcibly annexed by China more than 50 years ago. Using material gathered during 10 years, the film functions as both a breathtaking travelogue and a political provocation, offering convincing evidence of the Chinese government's determination to wipe out Tibetan culture and identity. — D. Kehr. (NR) 1 hour, 40 minutes. B+

"UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN": Generalizations are risky, but anyone wanting to know the answer to the eternal question "What do women want?" (or rather, women over 35) need look no farther than Audrey Wells' frothy adaptation of Frances Mayes' best seller. A woman (Diane Lane) gets dumped, despairs, goes sightseeing in Italy, buys a rundown villa in a small Tuscan hill town, cooks fabulous meals for friends, takes a gorgeous lover and essentially assumes a whole new identity. This is how we should all be dumped. The really nice thing about the movie, aside from Lane's warm, vulnerable performance, is its focus on how we recover from lost love, rather than the pursuit of a fresh one. — M. Pois. (PG-13: sexual content, language.) 1 hour, 55 minutes. B+

"UNDERWORLD": Kate Beckinsale stars as Selene, a vampire soldier who belongs to a gang of tragically hip, pistol-wielding bloodsuckers. The vampires are at war with werewolves, and have been for centuries. The wolves are trying to capture Michael Corvin (Scott Speedman), who is a human heir to the ancient family from which both the vampires and werewolves sprang. Gunfire ensues, empty ammunition clips plunge ominously to the floor, people flip back-

ward in the air, the audience yawns. — A. Breznican. (R: violence, gore, mild profanity.) 1 hour, 2 hours. D+

"VERONICA GUERIN": This scaled-down, no-frills, straight-acting piece on the events leading up to the murder of a real-life Irish crusader/journalist stars Cate Blanchett in the title role. Guerin dared to uncover the dark truth about drug dealers in Dublin and paid dearly for it. Director Joel Schumacher makes the mistake of opening his film with Guerin's brutal murder and then flashback to depict the incidents that preceded her death. Knowing how she died and just how much her husband and children are about to lose, it's tough to sit there and admire Guerin for her spunk and determination to stand up for what she believes. — J. Baltake (R: violence, language and some drug content.) 1 hour, 38 minutes. C

"WHALE RIDER": A retelling of an old Maori legend about a tribe that believes its origins can be traced to Paikea, a man who arrived on their shores on the back of a whale. The name and tribal duties are traditionally passed on to the eldest male child of Paikea's descendants. But when a male baby dies at birth, along with his mother, leaving behind a twin sister, the lineage is disrupted. The baby's grieving father names her Paikea in defiance and leaves town. Twelve years later, Paikea (the enchanting Keisha Castle-Hughes) struggles to be accepted as leader by her traditional grandfather, Koro (Rawiri Paratene). This is a spiritual and inspiring movie that richly deserves the audience awards it won at the Sundance, Toronto and Rotterdam film festivals. — M. Pois. (PG-13: brief language, momentary drug reference.) 1 hour, 45 minutes. A-

"WINGED MIGRATION": Jacques Perrin's breathtaking documentary of migrating birds transports you to an exalted realm, where nature operates under its own inviolable laws. For much of the movie, filmed over three years using five crews — including 17 pilots and 14 cinematographers — the camera flies alongside, above and below many species of birds as they make their annual round trips. It may sound facetious, but "Winged Migration" provides such an intense vicarious experience of being a flapping airborne creature that you leave the theater feeling like an honorary member of another species. — S. Holden. (G) 1 hour, 39 minutes. A

"WONDERLAND": This seamy true story of the 1981 drug-related murders on L.A.'s Wonderland Avenue stars Val Kilmer as former (and now deceased) porn star John Holmes. The murders themselves were indeed messy, but they can't compare to the disarray that is this film. It plays point-of-view games to imagine ever-more gruesome ways in which Holmes could have been involved in the grisly murders of four of his cocaine suppliers. It's hard to care what really happened on Wonderland Avenue when you hate the neighborhood. — J. Bernard. (R: strong violence, grisly images, pervasive drug use and language, some sexuality and nudity.) 1 hour, 44 minutes. D



TRUMPETER WYNTON MARSALIS is probably best known for his "big" projects, such as heading New York's Jazz at Lincoln Center program and orchestra, but he's got a small-group jazz group he's been working on for a while. At a Berkeley concert Sunday night, he will perform with the same quintet with which he's at work on a new album due out in spring 2004. The Wynton Marsalis Quintet performs at 7 p.m. Sunday at Zellerbach Hall, Bancroft Hall, Telegraph Avenue, UC Berkeley. Tickets are \$30-\$62. Call 424-9988 or www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.



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- **Albany High School Athletic Boosters**
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September thru October
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Events

WORLDS ENSEMBLE OF BERKELEY performing "Henry and Tom" by Tom St. Germain, through Nov. 22, at the Ford, Thomas Edison, and Warner stages alone on a camping trip.

Friday and Saturday, and Nov. 20, NO SHOW OCT. 31. Live Oak Inn, 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-843-5595 or www.berkeley.org.

SCENEMA PLAYHOUSE — "Jekyll and the Musical," Oct. 31 through Nov. 23. Based on the book by Robert Stevenson. A brilliant doctor's experiments with human personality lead to a murderous counterpart between 31 seniors and students. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 1409 High St., Alameda. 510-553-0533 or www.alatara.org.

ENTR'AL WORKS THEATER ENSEMBLE — "Lonheir: The Last Great Love," by Gary Graves, through Dec. 23. A new look at one of the famous kings of England, who leads his Third Crusade against his Islamic world. Satadlin 10, Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 5 p.m. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Duran Ave., Berkeley 510-551-1381 or www.entr'alworks.org.

ART THEATRE — Now permanently housed under a pizza restaurant, a dinner and a show is available if you like pizza.

"Hamlet" by William Shakespeare, through Dec. 13. A fast-paced, modern version of the tale of a Scottish prince's obsessive quest for

revenge; \$10 students and seniors. Friday through Saturday, 8 p.m.; La Salle Subterranean, 1834 Euclid St., Berkeley 510-464-4468 or www.entr'altheatre.com.

QUASERS PLAYHOUSE — "1940s Hour" by Walton Jones, Oct. 31 through Dec. 13. A musical comedy featuring a "Cavalcade of Stars" returning for a Christmas radio show from New York City in 1943. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; Nov. 10, Nov. 30 and Dec. 7, 2:30 p.m. 105 Park Place, Point Richmond 510-262-0301 or www.masquers.org.

LAND BOX THEATER — "The

Oakland Poetry Slam," first and third Thursdays, 8 p.m. to midnight. An open mic poetry and music event followed by a performance by touring poets of national acclaim. The night ends with a poetry slam in which poets compete to get to the finals for a place on the 2004 Oakland Slam Team.

10, 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-451-1932 or www.oaklandbox.com.

TRANSPARENT THEATER — "The No Ghost Hamlet" by William Shakespeare, through Nov. 23. The original dialogue of Shakespeare's play has been placed into a modern, domestic setting with Hamlet, as a woman, arriving home from college to mourn her father's death, only to find her mother set to marry her abusive uncle. In addition, Hamlet is having an affair with her neighbor, Ophelia.

\$25, Thursday, pay-what-you-can Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 7 p.m. 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-0305 or www.transparenttheater.org.

TRAVELING JEWISH THEATER AND WORD FOR WORD — "Windows and Mirrors: Stories by Paley, Malamud and Boller," Nov. 6 through Nov. 9, \$20 to \$28 general; \$20 seniors, students, children. Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2650 College Ave., Berkeley. 925-798-1300.

POPULAR MUSIC

ARTS FIRST OAKLAND — "Share the Music," Nov. 2, 4 p.m. A showcase of local cultural treasures, including performances by Vocool and Street Sounds, Great Wall Youth Orchestra and the First Congregational Church Voices of Praise.

\$10 general; \$7 seniors, students. First Congregational Church, 2501 Harrison St., Oakland. 510-444-8511, ext. 15, or www.artsfirstoakland.org.

ASHKENAZ — "Halloween Party with The Venusians and The Next Generation," Oct. 31, 9:30 p.m. \$13.

Groundation, Nov. 1, 9:30 p.m. \$12.

"Rastafari Celebration of the 73rd Anniversary of the Coronation of Haile Selassie and Empress Menen," Nov. 2, 8 p.m. A night of reggae and spoken word performances. \$10.

Anoush, Nov. 4, 8:30 p.m. \$9.

"Peter Tosh Tribute with Andrew Tosh and Sister I-Live," Nov. 8, 9:30 p.m. \$13.

"Hawaiian Music Environmental Benefit," Nov. 9, 6 p.m. A night of Hawaiian and island music. \$12.

1317 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley 510-525-5055 or www.ashkenaz.com.

BECKETT'S IRISH PUB — Sterling Dervish, Oct. 31.

Nicole McFony, Nov. 1.

Free. For ages 21 and older. Music at 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

2717 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-525-1990 or www.beckettsirishpub.com.

BLAKE'S ON TELEGRAPH — "Halloween Costume and Dance Party with Fast Times," Oct. 31, \$8.

The Steve Gannon Band and Mz. Dee, Mondays, \$8.

For ages 18 and older. Music at 9:30 p.m. 2367 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-0886 or www.blakesontelegraph.com.

BLAKE'S ON TELEGRAPH — "Halloween Costume and Dance Party with Fast Times," Oct. 31, \$8.

For ages 18 and older. Music at 9:30 p.m. 2367 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-0886.

CAL PERFORMANCES — Wynton Marsalis Quintet, Nov. 2, 7 p.m.

\$30 to \$62. Zellerbach Hall, University of California, Bancroft Way and Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. 510-642-9988 or www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

DOWNTOWN — Danny Caron and Friends, Oct. 31.

Brian Melvin, Nov. 1.

Mimi Fox Solo Guitar, Nov. 4.

Jules Broussard, Bing Nathan, Ned Roynon, Nov. 5.

Keni El Lebrijano Flamenco Guitar, Nov. 6.

Trio Paradiso dinner event, Nov. 7 Rhonda Benin, Nov. 8.

Free. Tuesday through Thursday at 8 p.m.; Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 9:30 p.m. 2102 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-3810 or www.downtown-restaurant.com.

FREIGHT AND SALVAGE — Patrick Ball, Nov. 1, \$16.50 to \$17.50.

Forward Kwenda, Erica Azim, Nov. 2, \$16.50 to \$17.50.

Ron Stewart, Roland White, Jim Hurst, Missy Raines, Bill Evans, Nov. 3, \$17.50 to \$18.50.

Eliza Gilkyson, Nov. 5, \$15.50 to \$16.50.

David Knopfler, Nov. 6, \$15.50 to \$16.50.

Chris Smither, Peter Mulvey, Nov. 7 and Nov. 8, \$17.50 to \$18.50.

Bill Amateek, Charlie Chin, Nov. 9, \$15.50 to \$16.50.

Music starts at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Anoush, Nov. 4, 8:30 p.m. \$9.

noted. 1111 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-548-1761 or 510-762-BASS or www.freightandsalvage.org.

KIMBALLS EAST — Glenn Jones, Oct. 31 and Nov. 1, \$28.

Down to the Bone, Nov. 7 through Nov. 9, \$28.

Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.

600 Shellmond St., Emeryville. 510-762-BASS or www.kimballs.com.

LA PENA CULTURAL CENTER

"Para Nuestros Antepasados," Nov. 1, 9 p.m. The opening concert of the "Hecho en Califas" festival. \$10 to \$12.

Luchi Fuentes, Nov. 8, 8 p.m. \$12 to \$14.

3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2588 or www.lapena.org.

MCGRATH'S IRISH PUB — "Sea Chantays and Songs of the Waterways," Tuesday, 8 p.m.

Free. 1539 Lincoln Ave., Alameda. 510-552-6263 or www.mcgrathspub.com.

924 GILMAN ST. — Babyland, Plan 9, John Baker and the Malnourished, Ashtray, Oct. 31. Halloween show Deadfall, Brain Failure, Hang on the Box, Love Songs, Nov. 1.

Time for Living, Physical Challenge, Tarkaru, Nov. 7.

Thought Riot, F Minus, Afront, Go It Alone, Nov. 8.

All ages welcome. Shows are \$5 and start at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

924 Gilman St., Berkeley. 510-525-9926 or www.gilmans.org.

OAKLAND BOX THEATER — "The All Hollows Eve Jam," Oct. 31, 7:30 p.m. to midnight. A safe night for young people ages 14 to 20 with music, dancing and costumes. \$5 to \$7.

"Tuesday Night Oakland Box Series," B.

Children on the Corner, Nov. 3, \$10 to \$12.

p.m. Live and experimental music. \$6 to \$1000.

Nov. 4: Michael Evans, Faun Fables with Brother Brian.

1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-451-1932 or www.oaklandbox.com.

QUINN'S LIGHTHOUSE — The Starboard Watch featuring Skip Henderson, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Free. 511 Embarcadero Cove, Oakland. 510-536-2050.

STARRY PLough PUB — "Halloween Havoc Costume Contest," Oct. 31.

Featuring 7th Direction, Smith Points Pocket, \$3 to \$5.

Tempest, Nov. 1, \$10.

George Pedersen and His Pretty Good Band, Nov. 6, \$5.

Asylum Street Spankers, Nov. 7, \$14.

Casey Neill, Little Sue, Nov. 8, \$7.

For ages 21 and over unless otherwise noted. Sunday and Wednesday, 8 p.m.; Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2082.

STORK CLUB — "Turbo Jugend Halloween Party," Oct. 31. Featuring III Gotten Gainz, The Lewd Hurting Crew, Trouble Maker, Black Furries.

Low Flying Owls, The New Strange, The Proles, Nov. 6.

Stage Rage, Second Date, Teeze, Nov. 8.

\$5. All shows at 9 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-446-6174 or www.storkcluboakland.com.

YOSHII'S — Art Ensemble of Chicago, through Nov. 1, \$26.

Jenna Mammma with Ray Obiedo, Nov. 2, \$14.

Children on the Corner, Nov. 3, \$10 to \$12.

\$18. Summit, Nov. 4, \$22.

Dr. John, Nov. 5 through Nov. 9, \$24 to \$28.

Shows are Monday through Saturday, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

510-238-9200, www.yoshiis.com or www.ticketweb.com.

See EVENTS, Page C6

Today's Real Estate in the East Bay by Marc Guay

FAREWELL!

I've enjoyed writing real estate columns and sending them out to you via this newspaper, but I confess it is a time-consuming and expensive undertaking, and I need to focus my energies elsewhere at the moment. So this is a kind of farewell—though it certainly doesn't mean I'm not still around, assisting people with their real estate questions and transactions. Indeed, it is my hope that our relationship will continue, though not in these pages.

I leave you with a couple of thoughts. First, it is my experience that people who are well-informed make the best clients for me—and also tend to make the best decisions for themselves. The point of doing the necessary homework (reading personal finance books and articles and columns like this one) is, above all, to know precisely the questions you need to ask of a real estate professional you know and trust. That's my second thought. I've experienced that, as the Internet and other sources of information make buyers and sellers of real estate more and more sophisticated, they are all that much more inclined to call on the services of a real estate professional. Not only do they know the questions they want answers to, they know what to expect of their real estate advisor and why they'll get their money's worth.

I hope to see you reasonably soon, and to help put your knowledge to work for you. Questions, comments? Just call Marc at 280-2103 and visit his web site at www.marcguay.com.

Marc Guay is a Realtor with Red Oak Realty in Berkeley.



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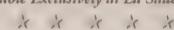
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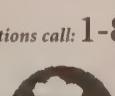
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Events

FROM PAGE C5

CLASSICAL MUSIC

ANDREA BOCELLI — Nov. 8, 8 p.m. Accompanied by the Fresno Philharmonic, with Ana Maria Martinez, soprano, and Steven Mercurio conducting.

\$45 to \$350. Arena in Oakland, 700 Coliseum Way, Oakland, 510-762-2277 or www.ticket.com.

CAL PERFORMANCES — Academy of Ancient Music, Nov. 1, 8 p.m. Richard Egarr directs a program of Bach harpsichord concertos. Pre-concert talk at 7 p.m. At the First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, \$42. Emanuel Ax, piano, Nov. 9, 3 p.m. \$32 to \$56.

Zellerbach Hall, University of California, Bancroft Way and Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley, 510-642-9888 or www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

FLAUTI DIVERSI — "Follow the Lieder," Nov. 1, 8 p.m. A program of rhapsodic instrumental music from the 18th and 20th centuries.

\$15 to \$18. St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 1501 Washington St., Albany, 510-527-9840.

FOUR SEASONS CONCERTS

Richard and John Contiguglia, Nov. 8, 7:30 p.m. The piano duo will perform music by Schubert, Percy Grainger and Liszt.

\$25 to \$35. Calvin Simmons Theatre, 10th St., Oakland, 510-451-0775 or www.fourseasonsconcerts.com.

MUSICOURCES — Richard Troeger, clavichord, Nov. 2, 5 p.m. Performing works by Haydn, Mozart and C.P.E. Bach.

\$18 general; \$15 seniors and students 1000 The Alameda at Marin, Berkeley, 510-528-1685.

OAKLAND SYMPHONY CHORUS — Nov. 8 and Nov. 9. Performing music by Bach and Mendelssohn.

\$18 general; \$14 seniors, students. Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 4 p.m. First Congregational Church, 2501 Harrison St., Oakland, 510-207-4093.

PHILHARMONIA BAROQUE ORCHESTRA — "Splendor Italiani," Nov. 8 and Nov. 9. With music by Vivaldi, Tartini, Durante, Cagliari and Manfredini. Nicholas McGegan conducting.

\$29 to \$60. Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 7:30 p.m. First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley, 415-392-4400 or www.philharmonia.org.

SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMANCES — "Saturday Morning Program," through Nov. 1. A three-part look at the Shostakovich String Quartets with performances by Alexander String Quartet.

Nov. 1: Quartets No. 13 and No 14. Nov. 8: Quartet No. 15 and the Sonata for Viola and Piano, Op. 147.

\$30. St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley, 415-398-6449 or www.performances.org.

TRINITY CHAMBER CONCERTS — Kazuko Cleary, piano, Nov. 1, 8 p.m. A concert of works by Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin and Takemitsu.

\$12 general; \$8 seniors and students Trinity Chapel, 2320 Dana St., Berkeley, 510-549-3864.

UC ALUMNI CHORUS — "Waging Peace," Nov. 9, 3 p.m. Featuring music by Benjamin Britten, Kirke Mechen and a variety of peace-themed works, with soloists Corey Head and Brian Lehruber.

\$15 general; \$10 seniors, students, disabled persons. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 114 Montecito Ave., Oakland, 510-643-9645.

MUSEUMS

AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM AND LIBRARY — "Walls of Heritage/Walls of Pride: African American Murals," through Dec. 31. An exhibit of historical and contemporary murals created by African American artists from around the country. The exhibit features 52 photos of murals and 20 original works related to murals.

"The Long Walk to Freedom," through Dec. 31. An exhibit of photographs, archival material, videos and writings highlighting the contributions of 12 civil rights activists who changed the face of the nation.

"Creativity and Resistance: Maroon Cultures in the Americas," ongoing. An exhibit featuring historical drawings and maps, a timeline, contemporary photographs and a selection of ceremonial and daily life objects.

"Golden Road to Freedom: The African Legacy in California, 1775-1900," ongoing. An exhibit focusing on the role that people of African descent played in later expeditions and settlements before the annexation of California.

Free. Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. 659 14th St., Oakland, 510-637-0200 or www.oaklandlibrary.org.

ALAMEDA MUSEUM — The museum offers permanent displays of Alameda history, the only rotating gallery showcasing local Alameda artists and student artwork, as well as souvenirs, books and videos about the rich history of the Island City.

ROTATING EXHIBIT — Natica Angilly.

Nov. 1 through Nov. 30. An exhibit of art and dance.

SPECIAL EVENT — "Fusions: Art, Photography, Dance, Poetry, Masques," Nov. 8, 3:30 p.m. Featuring live performances and an art show opening. Refreshments will be served.

Free. Wednesday through Friday, 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 2324 Alameda Ave., Alameda, 510-521-1233 or www.alamedamuseum.org.

EBONY MUSEUM OF ARTS — A museum specializing in the art and history of Africa. The collection, which was on display in the museum's Jack London Village branch, has been incorporated with the material in the 14th Street Victorian Museum building, the site of the original museum.

Free admission; \$2 guided tour. Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1040 14th St., Oakland, 510-763-0141.

GOLDEN STATE MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM — Through Dec. 28. The museum features extensive displays of operating model railroads constructed and operated by the East Bay Model Engineers Society. Covering some 10,000 square feet, steam and modern diesel-powered freight and passenger trains operate in O, HO and N-scales on separate layouts, as well as narrow gauge and trolley lines. Of special interest is the Tehachapi Pass and Loop on the N-scale layout showing how the multiple engine trains traverse the gorges and tunnels, passing over themselves to gain altitude to cross Tehachapi Summit just east of Bakersfield. In addition the layouts include such famous railroad landmarks as Niles Canyon, Donner Pass, and the Oakland Mole where transcontinental passengers were ferried across San Francisco Bay from their arriving trains. For December, the trains and layouts will be decorated for the holidays.

Suggested \$3 donation; free children under 3. Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-1564 or www.hallofhealth.org.

MILLS COLLEGE ART MUSEUM — Jennifer Bartlett and Elizabeth Murray, through March 7, 2004. A major exhibit of paintings by two alumni. The exhibit will be closed for winter break from Dec. 15 through Jan. 12.

Circumstantial Evidence: Paintings by Martin Mull, through Nov. 16. An exhibit of works by the artist.

Reception, Nov. 5, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. An artist lecture will follow at 7:30 p.m. At Lucie Stern Hall, room 100, on the Mills College campus

Free admission; \$2 guided tour. Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1040 14th St., Oakland, 510-763-0141.

PATRICK HENRY MUSEUM — "The Art of Fred Martin: A Retrospective, 1948-2003," through Dec. 28. An exhibit of paintings on board, paper and canvas that spans 50 years and includes 135 works by painter, teacher

and writer Fred Martin.

"Online Museum," Thursdays, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Explore the museum's collection on videodisks in the History Department Library.

Docent Gallery Tours, Saturday and Sunday, 1:30 p.m.

Art à la Carte, ongoing. Art docents offer a variety of specialized tours focusing on one aspect of the museum's permanent collection. Wednesday, 12:30 p.m. Free with museum admission.

SPECIAL EVENTS — "Gunfight History 19th-Century California or the Dead," through Dec. 7. An exhibit of artworks inspired by traditions and ceremonies honoring the dead in a variety of cultures. This is an expansion of the annual Day of the Dead exhibit, in its tenth year. The exhibit features 11 artists, from a variety of cultures, Western and non-Western, working in different media.

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PARDEE HOME MUSEUM — Dorotea Mansions, a

Italianate villa built in 1893 by

to three generations of the Pardee family who were instrumental in the civic and cultural development of Alameda and Oakland. The house includes the house, grounds, tower and barn. Reservation required.

\$5 general; free children under 12.

House Tours: Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; first Friday of the month to 9 p.m. 1000 Oak St., Oakland, 238-2200 or www.museums.org.

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"Los Zafiros" is a documentary on Cuban music's answer to American 1950s stylings.

CONTRIBUTED

We're the largest independent film festival in Northern California. We feel we have to select pieces that reflect the diversity and disparities in our community."

— Paul Kealoha Blake
East Bay Media Center

in the 1960s is a foundation of modern news programming, "a remarkable Berkeley jewel ... and the dean of African-American filming."

He singled out Blossom for both his Hollywood work and his recent devotion to "cine-poems," several of which will screen on Saturday. Blossom's latest effort in the experimental genre, where words flow down the screen as they're read, with a variety of backdrops, is "Nudge," which will be shown just prior to the 7:00 ceremony honoring him and his cinematic compatriots.

As for Burch, Vapour said "she's been chronicling the counterculture in her own special way for decades." He called her work, particularly dealing with local homelessness issues, "not sugar-coated in any way ... it's extremely edgy and raw." This edge is exposed in Burch's 17-minute "Telegraph Avenue Follies," which also screens on Saturday.

On the light side

Programming such an extensive collection is a chore, and Vapour notes that longer feature works are interspersed

with lighter, shorter fare such as music videos (including Eminem's powerhouse "White America," animated by Ian Abra and Stephen Marshall) and commercials for the audience's sake.

"They need a little comic and visual relief," he said. Commenting on the large student population that's bound to attend, Vapour also proudly noted the ticket prices, including the \$8 one-day pass. "It's a real bargain to see emerging new artists."

Pressed to name his favorites, Vapour picked the feature film "Temptation," a comedy mixing the San Fernando Valley porn with new-age crystals and chakras, with particular praise for its star. "Annette O'Toole brings the same energy that she brought to 'Cat People' and 'Nash Bridges,'" he said. He also praised "Los Zafiros," a documentary on Cuban music's answer to American 1950s stylings.

Blake singled out "The Fact of Asian Women" and "Next Question" as a part of BVFF's vision. "The festival brings issues back to the community and acts as its voice," he said.

From rather humble beginnings in 1991 at the Florence Schwimley Little Theatre, BVFF has blossomed into a festival that's compared favorably by some to Sundance in its commitment to independent voices.

Hundreds of entries come from around the world to Blake and Vapour's offices in the new Berkeley Arts District. "Our reach is now global," said Vapour.

Reach Berkeley freelance writer Brian Kluepfel at bkluepfel@hotmail.com.

BVFF has grown rapidly over the years and, as in other years, it will be screened over days. This Saturday and Sunday will feature 22 hours of individual projects, encompassing 12 different categories.

Vapour and a local videographer and filmmaker were nearly 200 this year to come up with the

range of offerings is from Berkeleyan Ichijima's one-minute video of the dangers of drunk driving (which won a Golden Bear at Cannes this year) to 30-minute feature films on oh-so-Los Angeles, touches on politics, art and humor without losing a local flavor.

Over the years, the festival tips a hat to Berkeley filmmakers Allen Willis, Claire and Robert Blossom. A presentation will be by the trio on Saturday but it's not a tribute to both Burch and Blossom works in the 2003 edition of the festival.

On the light side

Programming such an extensive collection is a chore, and Vapour notes that longer feature works are interspersed

that confronts her with the shock of her life.

8. **Time Traveler's Wife**, Audrey Niffenegger, \$25. The love story of Henry and Claire whose lives are punctuated by Henry's disappearance to different points in time—sometimes even back to visit Claire as a young woman. When Henry meets Claire, he is 28, and she is 20. He's a hip, handsome librarian; she is an art student with Boticelli hair. Henry has never met Claire before; Claire has known Henry since she was 6.

9. **Bleachers**, John Grisham, \$19.95. High school all-American Neely Crenshaw was probably the best quarterback ever to play for the legendary Messina Spartans. Fifteen years have gone by since those glory days, and Neely has come home to Messina to bury Coach Eddie Rake, the man who molded the Spartans into an unbeatable football dynasty.

10. **The Fortress of Solitude**, Jonathan Lethem, \$26. From the National Book Critics Award winner comes a daring, riotous, sweeping novel that spins the tale of two friends from a Brooklyn neighborhood, one black and one white, and their adventures in late 20th-century America.

Hardcover Nonfiction

1. **Dude, Where's My Country?** Michael Moore, \$24.95. Fresh on the heels of his runaway "Fahrenheit 9/11" and his new adventure "An Angels' Flight," Moore's new book is a compelling historical touch of Eros, and nonstop suspense. Michael Chrichton.

2. **The People You Meet In Mitch Albom**, \$19.95. From the author of "Tuesdays with Morrie," a novel that explores the unexpected connections of readers' lives and that heaven is more than an answer.

3. **My Company, My Life**, \$19.95. From the best-selling author of "Shopgirl" comes a novel of a troubled man who loves his wife, and life in the most unexpected ways.

4. **God Little**, DBC Pierre, \$23. Set in Martini, Texas — in a tiny town of the dynasties, and wearing only his undershirt and underpants — God Vernon Little is in trouble.

5. **The Mysterious Jesus**, has away 18 of his classmates during the gun on himself.

6. **Breakfast at Tiffanys**, Jhumpa Lahiri, \$24. With her signature themes of love, loss, and family, Lahiri's latest novel is set in the tangled ties of generations.

7. **Under the Banner of Heaven**, Jon Krakauer, \$26.00 At the core of his book is an appalling double murder committed by two Mormon Fundamentalist brothers, Ron and Dan Lafferty, who insist they received a revelation from God commanding them to kill their blameless victims.

8. **Reading Lolita in Tehran**, Azar Nafisi, \$23.95. "Reading Lolita in Tehran" is the astonishing true story of young women who met in secret each week to read and talk about forbidden Western classics—and their lives and loves—in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

9. **Madam Secretary**, Madeline Albright, \$27.95. Sure to be one of the signature books of the century, this is a tapestry both intimate and panoramic, personal and public, and a rich memoir of a powerful woman.

10. **Northern California Independent Booksellers Association**

the first years of the George W. Bush presidency.

4. **The South Beach Diet**, Arthur Agatston, M.D., \$24.95. Dr. Agatston has developed an all-science, deliciously heart-healthy program that offers immediate results, helping dieters shed ten, 20, 30 pounds while radically changing their blood chemistry, reversing diabetes, and lowering high cholesterol.

5. **The Great Unraveling**, Paul Krugman, \$25.95. In this long-awaited work containing economist Krugman's most influential columns along with new commentary, he chronicles how the boom economy unraveled: how exuberance gave way to pessimism, how the age of corporate heroes gave way to corporate scandals, and how fiscal responsibility collapsed.

6. **Every Second Counts**, Lance Armstrong & Sally Jenkins, \$24.95. The four-time Tour de France winner and #1 "New York Times" bestselling author returns with an exhilarating account of his recent personal and professional victories—and what fuels his awesome drive to thrive.

7. **Where I Was From**, Joan Didion, \$23. In this moving and unexpected work, Didion reassesses her life, her work, and both her own and America's history, locating the contradictions in the stories people tell themselves about their past and their present.

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Arts & Leisure

Friday, October 31, 2003



BILL MANN
Multimedia Notes

No tricks,
just a treat

FOXBOROUGH POSTPONED the debut of several of its best shows until after the World Series. This time, they've saved the best for last.

Sunday night (Nov. 2) at 9:30 on Channel 2, the season's best new series debuts. "Arrested Development" is a deliciously clever sitcom about a dynasty of dunces, a collection of clueless upscale neurotics who've suddenly run out of money. Jason Bateman stars as the one well-adjusted member of this lot, a sly observer. The new Fox show is both well-written and refreshingly cynical. I only hope "Arrested" doesn't share the same fate of Fox's short-lived, often-brilliant "Action!" (starring Jay Mohr as a Hollywood wunderkind) three years ago: a quick cancellation.

This quasi-documentary about a wealthy family on the skids co-stars Jeffrey "Hey Now" Tambor ("Larry Sanders'" sidekick). Tambor, the scion of this collection of slush-fund junkies, is sent to jail Sunday — and seems to enjoy it.

It's a treat (and a nifty trick) to see a show this biting and this sophisticated make it to broadcast TV. Still, better enjoy it while it lasts: "Action!" lasted only five episodes. And three "Naked Gun" episodes never aired after the series was quickly canceled by ABC.

Also making its debut on Fox Sunday night, at 8: The network's critically acclaimed "The Simpsons," with its annual (albeit two days late) Halloween episode, "Treehouse of Horror XIV." One of the three stories is titled — ready for this? — "Reaper Madness." On another segment, Jerry Lewis guest-voices a character found by Lisa Simpson in a cryonics lab. (You can almost hear Lewis' famous "oh, ladiee" line now.)

Fox's first-rate "King of the Hill" also returns Sunday.

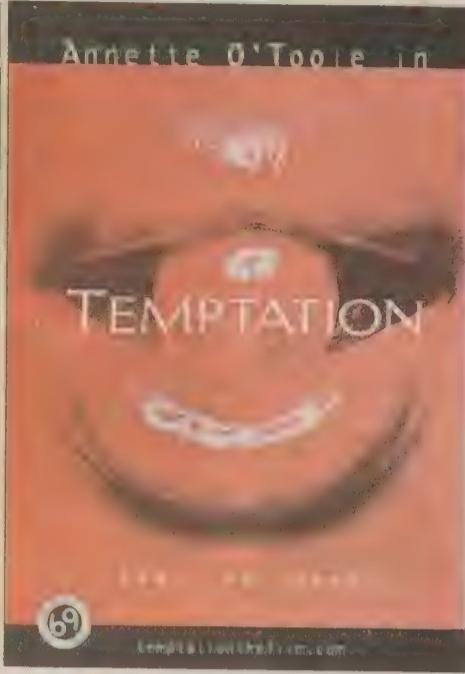
BTW, Fox sent TV critics a tasty press kit hyping its "Super Sunday Sundae." It included an ice-cream spoon, a sundae dish, a bottle of hot fudge, and sprinkles. Sweet. So was the annual "Simpsons" trick-or-treat bag of goodies from Fox. I'm experiencing acute hypoglycemia even as I write this.

KEEPING FAITH: If it seemed unusual to see stories on the death of a local TV reporter, KTVU's Faith Fancher, on several competing stations two weeks ago, it was. But that's because Fancher was such an unusual, upbeat person. I'd known Fancher, who died of breast cancer, for a decade before I started newswriting at Channel 2, and I had a lot of respect for her as a reporter. But working with her I soon realized what a first-rate person Fancher, who died at age 53, also was. No matter how busy she was, Faith always found time to help this ink-stained TV rookie and answer my questions about TV newswriting.

One KTVU co-worker says of the day Faith passed 12 days ago, "That Sunday was absolutely miserable. Faith's stepson, a shooter (cameraman) here, was out covering (sigh) a breast-cancer fundraiser at Lake Merritt when we had to call to tell him the news. And then Leslie Griffith, who's rarely here on weekends, stopped by to show someone the station 30 minutes after we'd gotten the bad news. She hadn't heard. At least we had a baseball game that night so didn't have a five o'clock newscast. That would have been even rougher on everyone."

That night at 10, veteran reporter Craig Heaps got the Fancher-death assignment and did his usual fine job. Earlier, KPIX anchor Barbara Rodgers, Fancher's friend, must have seen the end coming: Rodgers filed a story on the inspirational Oakland newswoman's fight against breast cancer and Faith's fund-raising efforts only two days before Faith died.

Questions? Comments? E-mail Bill at Newsmann@sonic.net



AT THE Berkeley Video and Film Festival, "Temptation," starring Annette O'Toole, is the Grand Festival Award Winner-Feature and "Born to be Wild" is the Grand Festival Award Winner-Arts. Also on the bill: "Los Zafiros," a documentary feature on Cuban music. Below is the poster for this year's festival.

CONTRIBUTED

Video, film fest doubles its pleasure

■ 10th annual event takes place over two days in Wheeler Hall

By Brian Kluepfel
CORRESPONDENT

BERKELEY — A lot of local film festivals — even those which show films and feature cinematographers from the East Bay — insist on using that other nearby city to add cachet to their event: San Francisco Jewish Film Festival, San Francisco International Film Festival, etc. How about some props for Berkeley?

Mel Vapour and Paul Kealoha of the East Bay Media Center have no qualms about using the Berkeley moniker to identify



their film/video cornucopia, now in its 10th year.

The 2003 Berkeley Video and Film Festival moves to Wheeler

Hall on the UC Berkeley campus this weekend (its usual home, the Fine Arts Cinema, is being renovated) but Vapour and

IF YOU GO

WHAT: Berkeley Video and Film Festival

WHERE: Wheeler Hall, UC Berkeley

WHEN: Nov. 1 and 2, noon-11 p.m.

TICKETS: \$8 students/\$10 general public (one day), \$14 student/\$18 general public (two days)

INFO: www.berkeleyvideofilmfest.org, 510-843-3639

Blake's vision for the festival remains unchanged: give indie filmmakers a chance to strut their stuff.

See FESTIVAL, Page C9

Jewish culture collection comes home

■ "Brought to Light" exhibit brings Magnes Museum back to Berkeley

By Robert Taylor
STAFF WRITER

After merging and de-merging with the Jewish Museum of San Francisco, the Magnes Museum decided it was time to let people know it was back in business on quiet, tree-shaded Russell Street in Berkeley.

"We're still here and going strong," said Joanie Backman, the museum's acting executive director. "We have a wonderful collection, amassed over 40 years, and it's still growing."

That collection includes more than 30,000 items exploring Jewish culture, dating back to the 1600s. The way to let the public know about it, of course, was an

EXHIBIT

■ WHAT: "Brought to Light: The Storytold Collection of the Judah L. Magnes Museum"

■ WHERE: Judah L. Magnes Museum, 2911 Russell St., Berkeley

■ WHEN: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sundays-Thursdays, today through April 25. Closed Jewish and federal holidays.

■ HOW MUCH: Free

■ CALL: 510-549-6950

exhibit: "Brought to Light: The Storytold Collection of the Judah L. Magnes Museum." It opens today and runs through April 25.

"Brought to Light" displays more than 100 paintings, drawings, ceremonial objects and

See MAGNES, Page C9



SEYMORE FROMER, 81, founded the Judah L. Magnes Museum in 1962 with his wife, Rebecca Fromer.



JACK TUCK
Community Theater

HISTORY, recorded dutifully — and as it actually unfolded, would be about as atrical as city court cases.

Four current productions in Berkeley and one in Cerrito, dodge this notion by asking "What if?" and ing it from there.

HE SHOULD STAY "Lionheart," Central Valley production at the Berk Club, playwright Gary and his collaborators as if England's King Richard Coeur de Lion, the Lion (Robert Weinapple), has in Palestine at the end of indecisive Third Crusade peace with Sultan Saladin succeeded in marrying off sister Joanne (Rica Angeles) an emissary of the Saracens (Dianchan) and poison at the hands of scribe Rachel (Jodi Foster).

Intriguing, with an cast and tight-focus direction by Jan Zvára.

3 LOST BIG SHOTS Berkeley's Live Oak Theatre playwright Mark St. Germain in Actors Ensemble's "With Henry & Tom," done by Margaret Gudmundsson didn't have to ask what Henry Ford, Thomas Alva Edison and President Warren G. Harding ever went camping together. They did. The question became: What if they got one day and had to spend night in the woods? What would they talk about?

An unlikely pickle, given the presence of the Secret Service nearby (but out of sight) Ralph Miller (Edison), Tim Reilly (Ford) and Michael Green (Harding) in follow-up conversations bring us a sordid, cynical industrialist, and a tarty, womanizing chief executive.

Fun, and surprisingly insightful — given the improbable premise — about the nature, in varying degrees of greatness and genius of the individual. Bob Gudmundsson as Col. Edward Starling makes his stage debut at AE as the chief of the secure security detail.

Two plays hang their hats on reincarnation: one alone without.

FOREVER ALIVE? "Plaid," playing weekend at Cerrito's Costa Costa Theatre, asks at the outset: What if four guys on the way to their first big sing-off were killed outright in a way accident and were re-animated years later, ready to sing their now-golden oldies? If people wouldn't buy it?

No way. You only root for reincarnation moment John Brown (John Christopher Hughes) and Eric Fosselius (Smudge Andrew Gabel (Spanky) pouring out those first like maple syrup from a pitcher.

And just wait until the comic and perform a comic Ed Sullivan show in three acts and 11 seconds. It's off-your-seat funny. Incidentally, the first "really big show" 1948 had a budget of \$1 million.

FOREVER DEAD? Theent Theatre abjures matinee. One can imagine Tom Clancy saying, "We kept Shakespeare's words a few cuts, eliminated the supernatural and put on 'Ghost Hamlet' with a lead?"

It's "Elsinore, U.S.A." Claudius is now a middle-aged businessman, still married to Gertrude and married to Gertrude's widow. The players are a rock band. The plot is down to everyday folks, which relieves somewhat the emotional catharsis of high tragedy. This de-ghosted, accessible work, thanks to a cast, setting and direction.

Send theater items to Jack Tucker c/o the West County Times, 4301 Lincoln Drive, Richmond, Calif. 94704. E-mail to jtucker@ctimes.com or fax to 510-262-2775, or 510-262-2768.

Friday Auto Plus

cars.com

using supplement to The Montclarion, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Alameda Journal

Friday, October 31, 2003

Section D

CHERYL JENSEN
Down the Road

entertainment
systems move
to sedans

generation's chant, "Are we there yet? Are we there yet?" may soon slip into oblivion as rear-seat entertainment systems with VCRs or DVD

makers started offering systems in minivans, and next year into sport utility vehicles. Recently, they have started to appear in the back seats of family sedans and pickup trucks which are being used as family haulers. Companies are trying to differentiate their vehicles in a competitive market, said Frank Forkin, a spokesman with J.D. Power and Associates, a market research firm based in Lake Forest, Calif.

These vehicles look a lot like they are relying on features.

Forkin said:

The Saturn L-Series was the first

to offer a rear-seat entertainment system in its 2002 model.

It was followed by the 2003 Accord. General Motors will

offer it in the 2004 Malibu.

GM is offering it in its newly

launched XJ Vanden Plas and

it has the first to offer a rear-

entertainment system in pickup

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Restored 1949 Willys Jeep recalls an exhilarating experience

MOTOR MATTERS

About 50 years ago, Racine, Wis., was blanketed with — what seemed to a young schoolboy — a mountain of snow.

That boy was Butch Soetenga who remembers struggling through the snow as far as the corner service station where the owner put him in the front seat of his Jeep and took him to school through the snow drifts.

Soetenga never forgot that exhilarating experience — nor the Jeep. Since then, he says, "I've always loved flat fender Jeeps."

During his service with the Army in Vietnam he became reacquainted with Jeeps. It wasn't until the 1990s that he began to seriously look for an old Jeep. He traveled many miles on futile searches for Jeeps that were not quite as advertised.

By the summer of 1998, Soetenga and his wife Deborah were living in Madison, Wis. "We were on our way to the farmer's market," he says, "when we saw it parked by the road with a for sale sign in the window."

Soetenga kept on driving but his wife urged him to return and check it out. It was a well worn 1949 Willys Jeep CJ3A with a 60-horsepower, 134-cubic-inch L-head four-cylinder engine. The owner lived only six

VERN PARKER
Classic Classics

blocks away from the Soetengas and had painted the Jeep a grey/green color.

"It had a roll bar, canvas top and canvas doors," Soetenga remembers. "It was running, but not well."

He bought the Jeep and for two years bounced around town with great abandon. "We went looking for hills too steep to climb," he says.

He knew it needed work, and during the summer of 2000 he carefully measured the double doors in his walkout basement and discovered the diminutive Jeep — 12 feet, 9 inches long and 68 inches wide — could be maneuvered on its 80-inch wheelbase into the basement.

That's where the Jeep spent the next three years. With a lot of help from his family, Soetenga began to dismantle his Jeep. When he discovered how much was going to be involved he had to make a decision. "I'm going all the way," he announced.

After the Jeep was in the proverbial "million pieces," Soetenga had the frame sand blasted and then powder coated in black. He took a welding course so he could repair

the holes rusted in the floor and the sides himself.

Soetenga, a documentary film-maker for Wisconsin Public Television, took about 300 close-up photos of the car as it was being taken apart. The photos proved useful during the reconstruction.

"It's about as basic a vehicle as you can get," he says. With every item on the Jeep either rebuilt, restored or replaced, the 2,205-pound vehicle was rolled out of the basement in August, 2003. Mounted on the dashboard is a plaque presented to him by his family which reads: "Restored by Soetenga & Sons."

"I've got the only wife in the world that would let me keep a Jeep in the basement," he says.

The 10.5-gallon gasoline tank under the driver's seat was filled and, stepping on the floor starter, the little engine spun into life. "I love the sound of a six-volt starter turning over an engine," Soetenga says.

A new wiring harness was installed. The Jeep now has a heater, turn signals and a small light protruding from the dashboard to illuminate the instruments at night.

The original 15-inch wheels on the Jeep have been replaced with 16-inch wheels shod with non-directional military-style tires. The cor-



OWNER painstakingly took apart his 1949 Willys Jeep and then completely restored, rebuilt or replaced every part. He even took a welding class to fix the rust spots himself

rect fabric to cover the seats was located and Soetenga himself waterproofered it before installing it.

Soetenga prefers driving his Jeep with the windshield folded down on top of the engine hood. "I've had it up to 45 mph," Soetenga says. "It's

like being on a motorcycle with three other people."

Ironically, the four-wheel-drive Jeep is now too nice to take out in inclement weather. "We just cruise around looking cool," he says with a chuckle.

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be acceptable

in its long wheelbase minivans, the Dodge Grand Caravan and Chrysler Town & Country.

Currently, owners of about 30 models — mostly full-size/luxury sport utility vehicles and minivans — reported having such systems, which is up from just seven mod-

els two years earlier.
J.D. Power's 2002 U.S.
Emerging Technology
study also shows the
parents with children
interested in these pr...
these are people who...
and sport utility vehicles

Road

FROM PAGE D1

an optional rear-seat DVD entertainment system.

In-car video started off as "aftermarket" items in 1996, according to Joerg Dittmer, senior industry analyst at Frost & Sullivan, the San Jose-based consulting firm. These are systems consumers can purchase from video or electronics stores. They are placed on the floor of the minivan between the front seats and plugged into a power-point such as the cigarette lighter. Or they come as units that can be hung over the head restraints of the front seats for rear-seat viewing.

From 1998 to 2000, aftermarket sales of such in-car video grew almost 10 times from 40,000 to

350,000 units, according to a Frost & Sullivan study. Sales in 2002 hit 90,000 and are projected to top 1 million in 2008.

It is not surprising the automakers quickly figured out they should be offering such systems. GM became the first to offer a rear-seat entertainment system in its 1998 Oldsmobile Silhouette minivan. Frost & Sullivan expects the offerings from automakers to grow even faster than the aftermarket; and from 2005 on, systems offered by automakers will grab about 70 percent of the market.

Automakers' systems generally come with a 7-inch monitor that folds down from an overhead console just behind the front seats. The systems had VHS video players in the past, but are switching over to DVD systems.

Most allow the front-seat occu-

pants to control the system and to listen to a different entertainment source, for instance the radio, while those in the rear watch a movie. Some have remote controls and wireless headphones and can play CDs and video games. J.D. Power and Associates figures \$1,100 is the median price.

Honda expects only 1.5 percent of Accord buyers to opt for the rear-seat entertainment system, whereas the company expects anywhere from 15 to 25 percent of consumers who buy its Odyssey minivan, the Pilot and the MDX, to purchase it, said Dan Bonawitz, vice president of corporate planning and logistics at the American Honda Motor Co.

That seems to be similar to what the experience has been for the rear-seat entertainment system in Saturn L-Series sedan with its "take rate" of 2 percent. That compares

Impala has received five-star ratings by the National Highway Safety Administration. Safety equipment includes anti-lock brakes and side-impact airbags.

This car has come a long way in 43 years and I have no doubt 43 years from now, it will still be Chevrolet's big seller.

to a 15 percent take rate in GM minivans and mid-size sport utilities.

Ford's take rates range from 10 percent in the Explorer, to 40 percent in the Ford Windstar. Chrysler has a take rate for the rear-seat entertainment systems of 22 percent

in its long wheelbase minivans, the Dodge Grand Caravan and Chrysler Town & Country.

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Keane

FROM PAGE D1

However, I found myself parking away from the crowd, as I wanted to show it off. The Impala SS is available only in black, and the aluminum wheels add to its distinctive appearance. The bodylines are smooth and the rear end has an attractive spoiler plus bright shiny stainless steel exhaust pipes.

This car carries a \$27,335 suggested price. My tester had a load of options, bringing the total to \$30,540. The options included six-way power seats and heat for both front seats. OnStar was another option, plus a 200-watt sound system that made XM Satellite radio very enjoyable listening.

Contrasting the black exterior are soft gray leather bucket seats and leather-wrapped steering wheel. The rear has a 60/40 split folding backrest to allow carrying extra long objects in its huge trunk.

There are numerous thoughtful features, including dual-zone air conditioning, cruise control, tilt-steering wheel, extenders on the sun visors and a large center console. It also has a remote keyless entry and of course, power windows and door locks.

Chevrolet also boasts that the

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Vehicle Type Five-passenger, four-door front-wheel drive large

sedan
\$27,335
\$30,540
3.8-liter, 12-valve V6 OHV w/SFI
240 at 5,200 rpm
280 at 3,600 rpm
.Four-speed Hydra-Matic automatic
.110 inches
.57 inches
.3,606 pounds
.17 gallons
.City/highway 18/28

Suggested Retail Price as Tested
Engine Type
Horsepower
Torque
Transmission
Wheelbase
Height
Curb Weight
Fuel Capacity
Mileage

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Signature Series SSR has voluptuous body, power, pedigree

MOTOR MATTEH:
In our first relationship with a new car, we're first — a back-to-back超越 the usual plucked-out-of-the-blue experience. This 2003 Chevrolet SSR Signature Series hardtop convertible roadster is one of 25 built, and its value grows with age.

The pickup-like Super Sport model wears an identification plate indicating its number "25 of 25" built. It's the ultra-limited-edition SSRs that are part of the SSR Signature Series marketing.

With being signed by separate units of General Motors executives and members of the SSR team, Signature Series models experience colorful, docile journeys.

Now, lading in its owner's garage, the royal 25 make a string of high-profile appearances at separate venues. The culminates with each vehicle receiving a treasure chest of newspaper clippings, artwork, photos, autographs and other types of documentation presented to the part of the SSR Signature Series.

These special SSRs are reconceived and sold through auction houses like International.

A Signature Series vehicle develops

in a limited edition of 25 units.

For instance, Street Art SSRs are allocated

to regions of the United States.

They are commissioned to create artwork

TIM SPELL
Truck Talk

depicting the vehicle in settings distinctive to their regions.

Music Tour SSRs also establish distinctive identities. These vehicles travel to various music concert venues such as Los Lobos concerts, the Chevrolet Rock & Roll Tour or Doobie Brothers concerts.

Of course, there's a batch of particularly well-documented models sent to print and electronic media for review.

These Media Review SSRs are put through the paces and introduced to the public in the form of road-test evaluations, feature stories and photographs. This is the setting in which the VIN No. 000025 test vehicle earns its pedigree.

Engraved on the plate — affixed to the body-colored "waterfall" between the seats — are "SSR SIGNATURE SERIES" and the scripted names of two signers unique to the vehicle. Etched into the test-vehicle's plate are the signatures of Ari Kirsch and Gregory Thompson.

Fortunately, their titles don't accompany their signatures because there wouldn't be enough room on the plate. Kirsch is senior financial analyst for GM North America product development and Thompson is central engineering launch manager for GM manufacturing program management.

Aside from the ID plate, special badging, Ultra Violet paint and the pile of keepsakes, these Signature Series models are



outfitted like SSRs arriving in the market-place at a \$41,995 base price.

SSRs ride on a modified rear-drive Chevy TrailBlazer platform and are propelled by a 5.3-liter small-block V8 engine. This naturally aspirated engine propels the 4,760-pounder with 300 horsepower at 5,200 rpm and 331 pounds-foot of torque at 4,000 rpm.

Chevy reports the V8, partnered with a four-speed automatic transmission, sends the SSR from 0-60 mph in 7.6 seconds and to a quarter mile in 15.9 seconds at 90 mph. Powerful rear wheels through dual, round chrome-tipped tail pipes tuned to emulate a modern Camaro SS exhaust note.

This hot-rod roar is best appreciated at full throttle, and with the two-piece hardtop

down. This clever power-operated top is raised or lowered in less than 25 seconds, and neatly stacks out of sight beneath a hard cover.

The top stacks vertically behind the passenger compartment, leaving the same amount of space in the 23.7-cubic-foot cargo box in both up and down positions.

Cargo boxes of Signature Series models are lined with carpet and ribbed with laminated woodgrain floor strips. A lockable body-colored hard cover fits flush over the cargo box.

On my venture with the Signature Series SSR, offering peeks beneath the cargo cover and demonstrations of the retractable top operation were crowd-pleasers.

Admirers also were smitten by the SSR's voluptuous bodylines, amazing retractable

top action, glitzy cargo box, cool interior and liquid-like Ultra Violet paint job. A band of this purplish color seductively flows from the exterior and on into the interior.

Contrasting brushed aluminum accents adorn the instrument panel, steering wheel, door panels and center console. The instrument cluster is a three-pod design borrowed from the TrailBlazer.

SSR's black, silver-stitched leather-clad buckets do an excellent job of supporting the back during long cruises.

The trek to the coast was a perfect fit for Chevy's "Ultimate Boulevard Cruiser," which is tailored-made for long stretches of open-air driving.

Even without the pedigree the SSR is a hit to drive.

Doten Honda honored for 30 years

JIM DOTEN HONDA
BERKELEY — Jim Doten, son of Jim Doten Honda in Berkeley, recently received a 30-year award from Honda in Mexico, American Honda Company's district manager for Northern California.

Doten began his career in the automotive business in 1942 where, as a 12 year old, he swept the floors and washed cars in his father's Pontiac dealership in Berkeley.

He developed a passion for automobiles as well as a gentle, respectful way of treating customers.

These attitudes provided him the structure and skills to build an automotive empire that has lasted more than 70 years.

Doten started selling Hondas when they were powered by motorcycle engines, making his the second oldest Honda dealership in the Bay Area.

Many of the dealers around him laughed and thought he was a fool to sell those funny little cars that will never make it in America.

The laughs are long gone. So are many of his competitors.

In accepting his award, Doten acknowledged his Management Team, Sales Staff and Service Department for their

"shared vision" of serving and servicing customers in a way that has made all the difference. The average tenure in Doten's Service Department is 17 years

which adds up to a lot of experience and knowledge, skills that continue to raise the bar of customer expectations and satisfaction.

The dealership is at 2600 Shattuck Ave.; 510-843-3704 or www.jimdotenhonda.com.

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Friday, December 26, 2003

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Tote cuisine: beyond the bologna sandwich

BY MARIA GALLAGHER

The leaves haven't begun to change, but I've already seen one sure sign that autumn is almost at our doorstep.

At my neighborhood supermarket, an enormous display bin filled last month with round brown lunch bags (100 to a package) is a lot of school and office lunches waiting to be made.

With take-out and prepared food so readily available, you might think that grown-ups have stopped carrying lunches to work. But from my 2001 issue of *Architectural Record*, I learned that 45 percent bring a packed lunch at least once a week.

To work a lunch bag, you'll need to lay it down a sandwich afterward. Others are following doctor-precribed diets, or keeping kosher, or counting carbohydrates, or working the night shift.

Rosamaria Deneve, a cutlery designer, has been toting her lunch bag since 1998. "I just lost nearly 80 pounds since joining a Weight Watchers group at work last year," she says.

"I think it's better for me to have control over what I bring instead of relying on the cafeteria

What's in her lunch bag? Fresh fruit, pretzels for snacking, and either a sandwich of reduced-fat turkey on rye bread or homemade tuna salad with multigrain toast or whole-grain crackers. She washes it all down with fruit. She also carries spring water from a water cooler, jazzing it up with lemon and artificial sweetener.

Donna Sauer, another Weight Watcher member who works in the same department as Deneve, typically brings four pieces of fresh fruit to work and may along with them a few items of dinner leftovers, such as meat loaf, spaghetti, cold green beans, string beans, or macaroni and cheese.

For 25 pounds in Brownieville, Andie Dehner, she's cost-

ing \$100 for a lunch bag. "I don't like to eat at home because I'm not a good cook," she says.

At lunchtime, interior designer Margarita Rodgers is not at Strood Bass, or Anytime Fitness, or even B, all of which she used to hit the numbers. She's too busy to pause for a restaurant meal.

And some days, when she isn't at work by 9 a.m., she and her staff don't order a delivered lunch; the boss may dig into a bowl of cereal with fruit and milk.

You can, too. The ideal packed lunch does



BROWN BAG COUTURE

BY MARIA GALLAGHER

PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFFREY M. COHEN

STYLING BY HEATHER HARRIS

HAIR AND MAKEUP BY KAREN

positions for making lunch at work

more satisfying.

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• Try to add to a break room

or eat at a nearby cafe.

• Eat healthy sandwiches

and salads.

• Eat away from your desk.

• Eat healthy sandwiches

and salads.

• Eat healthy sandwiches

and salads.

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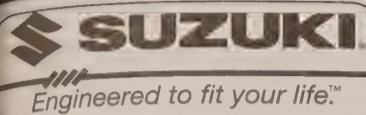
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STK#2439 VIN#066410

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Announcements

Business notices, personal messages, lost & found

East Contra Costa Licensed Child Care

ANTIOCH Farm, Daycare/Pre school, 10 mos.-5 yrs., 450-730-3406, 450-730-3406, 450-730-3406, L.I.C. #073403330.**LONE TREE WAY**, Trans provided, lic. #073400807.**OAKLEY** Daycare on W. Cypress Rd. 4am-6pm, #073404168 925-679-9898.**OAKLEY** Infant & up FT/Preschool, program, GMS, #073402900 925-679-1266.**PITTSBURG** nice mom & your home, Sarah #073402682 925-548-6292.**TATY'S** Place/Piits, 0-5yrs, 6am-6pm, Call Gladys 925-432-1856 #073402614.**WISH Upon A Star**, Ages 0-5yrs, 6am-6pm, Call Gladys #073403400 925-548-3680.**Tri-Valley Licensed Child Care****PRESCHOOL TEACHER** has 1 opening in her Dublin home, for 2-5 yr. old offer. \$150/mo. Tu-Fri, Mo-Th, #013416739, 925-500-0294.**CAT** found. Lfd. School St. 505-28-3689.**CHAHUAHUA** Mix, Sunmersel area, 10/15 Brentwood 925-679-0932.**DOG** fme, Rottweiler Mix, 3-4yr, 60 lbs, neutered, C/Lark Park, 925-210-0166.**DOG** S, blnd, fme, old, Vista & Brookside, Mtz 925-229-3886.**FOUND** Male puppy, black & tan color, min 10-669-9034.**KITTEN**: male, Marina Blvd., Pittsburg, 925-229-2621.**PARROT**: female, Found near Hwy 4. In July, 415-229-8245.**WATCH**: male, Nissen Park, Livermore, 925-456-2207.

Lost

CALICO: fme, wht, paw markings, Redwood Hill 925-229-8245.**CAT** adult grey & black tabby, wth chin, Rich, Annex 100-524-3327.**CAT** Orange & wht., neutered, 10 mos., Pleasant Hill 925-596-0514.**CAT** Seal Point Siamese mix, blue eyes, 2 yrs old, 10 mos., 747-789-7671.**COCKATIL**: wht, w/grey on wings, E. Richmond, 10/7, 510-215-1507 Reward \$25-933-4617.**DIAMOND** BRACELET, ST 925-820-5571, Pleasanton, 925-417-0757.**DIAMOND** Ring, lost 10/21 in Pkrg, lot of Rossman Cup, 925-820-5571 Reward \$25-933-4617.**DIAMOND & sapphire ring**, Lost 10/26 dwntwn Danw, Reward, 925-820-5571.**DOG** Gold Pomeranian (B-dilute), 10 mos., in Pittsburg, Joe or Priscilla 925-757-0672 Reward \$25-933-4617.**DOG** Lhasa Apso, diabetic, tan, Rd, hrt, 10 mos., 747-789-7671.**FUNNY****SMALL** Tortoise shell Cat, missing 10/3 From Vinit & Shatayah, 925-563-4423.**SUNGGLASSES** Blk, Rayban, Lost San Juan Cr. Estate, Saio, 10/25, 925-363-4423.

Personals

Thank you, thank you St. Jude for granting my wish, Mo**Thank you, thank you St. Jude for granting my wish, Jim**

Central Contra Costa Licensed Child Care

ABF'S DAYCARE, P.H.-0, 5/F, T/F, affordab, Exp. #073404015, 925-945-0745.**AFFORDABLE** qual. child care, 10 mos.-5 yrs., Mrs. Foster #073403944, 925-945-0769.**ALL AGE**, 24 hrs, 17 yr, exp. Bancroft, Tret, W.C. #073408070, 925-944-7190.**AT TREAT & Clayton Con**, 10/24, 510-229-3375 #073403890 925-825-0803.**CONCORD** Day care, days Mon-Fri, open 5:30 a.m., #073403285 925-691-5133.**CONCORD**, Ent, hrt, 10 mos., #073403291, 925-690-1699.

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East Contra Costa Licensed Child Care

AFFORDABLE, Sam-7pm, Tokeloume Prewett area, 925-757-0672, #073402277.**LL AGE**, Meats & snacks preschool & transp, available, #0734042277, 925-544-4339.**NITRO** Craft, activites, 6am-9pm, 10 mos., #073401172, near Fwy, Care #075-754-2722.**INTOCHI** Daycare 24hrs, 24/7, 10 mos., 10 mos., #073403209, 925-776-5568.**INDAYS** 6am-7pm, Transp, nreals, activities, Lic. #07340376, 925-753-5265.**BEAGLE** Pups, AKC, vet chk, raised w/kids, male 9 wks \$400+, 925-240-1710.**BEAGLES** Bables, Reg, 1st shot, spay, neuter must see, \$100+, 925-685-4178.**BEAGLE** Pups, AKC, 6mos, tri color, 100% Alamo chck, lines, short, wormed, \$100+, 925-548-2522.**BEAKITA** CHOW CHOW, Choc, Lab, 4/6, Red Dober, Green, 8mos, \$100+, 925-548-2522.**AMERICAN ESKIMO** Pups, Pure bred, wht, 8 wks., \$450, 925-989-9565.**AUSTRALIAN** Shepherd, 10 mos., 10 mos., \$1000, shots \$350 925-371-1699.**MINI SCHNAUZER**, 10 mos., 10 mos., \$1000, shots, \$350-379-3647.**MOVING**: 2 yr, old Black Lab need home, Call 411.**GRONDEL** Retriever pup, 16 wks, bird dogs/pets, Fem, Mates, \$400, 7/10-236-2365.**GORDON SETTER**, pup, 16 wks, bird dogs/pets, Fem, Mates, \$400, 7/10-236-2365.**HIMALAYAN KITTENS**, seal pts, choc, pts, 1 male, 4 wks, \$100, 925-509-3149.**HUSKIE Mix Pups, 6 mos+, \$350 910-669-0709.****ADOPT GREAT DOGS**, PUPS @ Pet Food Express on Saturday 1/1, 1-2pm, 10 mos., \$100-\$150.**FOSTER HOMES NEEDED**, 510-496-4484 smileydogrescue.org**Adoptions** @ ARF's New Home, 10 mos., 10 mos., \$100-\$150, Mitchell Dr. W.C. #073408070, 925-944-7190.**FOR** Info call 925-256-1273.**Mom** Adoption**All** breeds, 10 mos., \$100-\$150.**ADOPT** A BEAUTIFUL FRIEND**CONTRAST COSTA SPCA****PETCO****ADOPT** A BEAUTIFUL FRIEND**CONTRAST COSTA SPCA**

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Real Estate & Home

Friday, September 14, 2003

Section B

Weekly Home Sales Maintain your focus on the East Bay real estate scene [B7]
Open Home Guide See what's on sale in your neighborhood [B8]

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Diesel 14' box van, need
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up jet ski, some mod.
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2000 POLARIS 1200 Pro
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1975 15' Open Bow, gd
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27' 1978 Sea Ray, 9' Beam
trif, twin screws, full
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16, 86 Seawind open bow,
twin 150's, 4wd, 5spd
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1970 HOBIECAT 16' with
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open bow, 2000 hrs, 5000
Bob, 925-382-5972

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Force Mtr, Caltrax 1000
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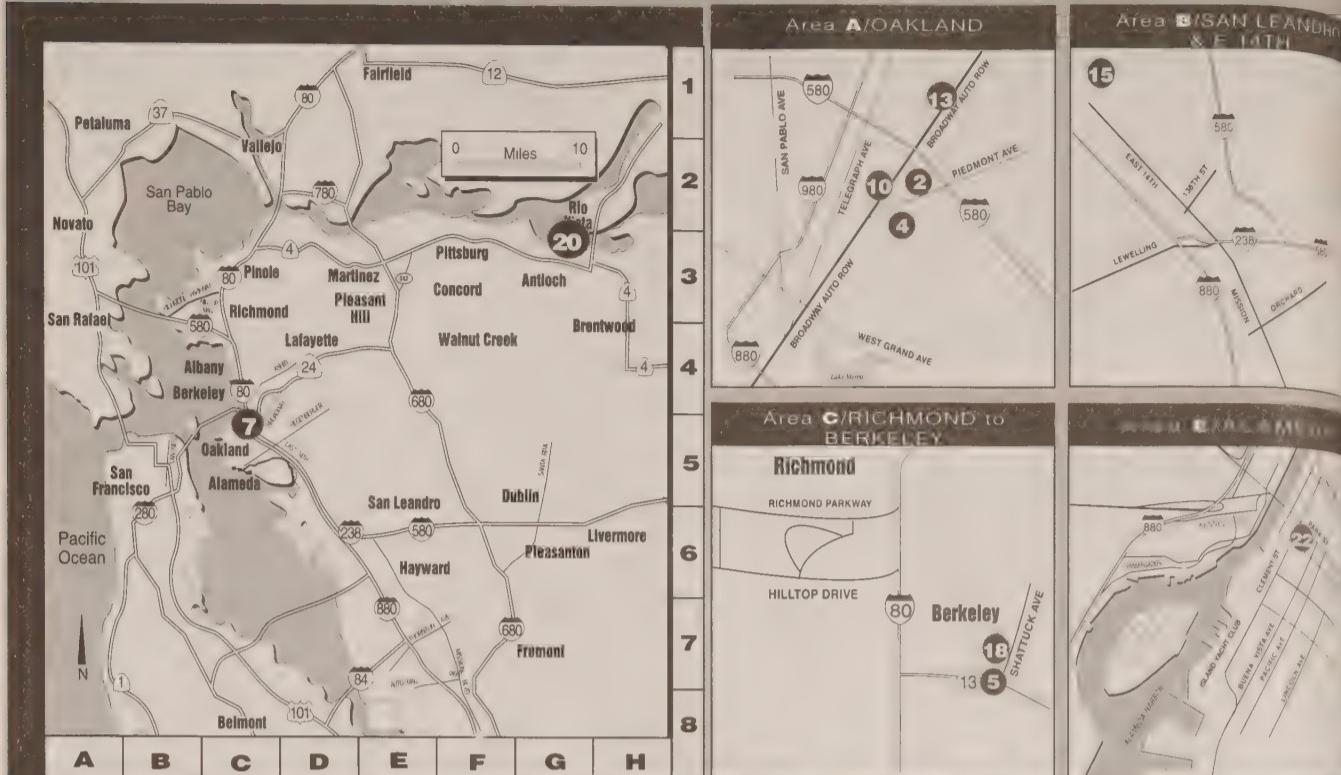
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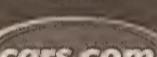
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ERWIN GEBHARDT/WAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

FALL FASHIONS (left to right): **Boot camp:** Mod mini with buckle and rivet detail by Tracy Evans Limited, \$22, at Kohl's Department Store. Hue tights, \$8.50, with "Eafadira" knee-high boots with buckle by Enzo Angiolini, \$129, both at Marshall Field's. **A touch of glass:** The mod look goes clean and clear, with sparkly baubles accessorizing a leather-accented turtleneck by Joseph A., \$61 at I Love London. **Pearl diving:** Liz Claiborne mother-of-pearl ring, \$29 at Marshall Field's. **Tie trends:** Executive collection grey plaid suit, \$495, gold knot cuff links, \$35, white "Traveler" shirt, \$44.50, blue and gold Signature Collection striped tie (on model), \$69.50, and rust striped tie, \$44.50, all at Joseph A. Bank. **Bowled over by bows:** Black sleeveless Donna Morgan sheath with bow detail, \$148, and red Hobo International purse, \$96, both at Boston Store. **Clamoring for amber:** Amber and sterling silver ring, \$90 at Ma Jolie. Off the cuff: Ermenegildo Zegna charcoal pinstripe suit, \$1,850, and checked shirt, \$250, with cuff links, \$20, and hexagonal pattern tie, \$125, all at Harleys.

From the classic to the flashy, new season mixes it up with fun and style

BY MARY-LIZ SHAW AND JAMES BURNETT
MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

The fun never stops. But it can hide. Last fall, we were up to there gauzy gowns, fringe and ruched peasant blouses. We were artists of the floating world, with enough cash to experiment. Now, as the economy teeters uncertainly and the world turns more serious, it is time to get back to the business of living. This year's model is smart, trim efficient. Sleek suits in splen-wools. Opaque tights, calf-length boots, and square heels you can really put your foot except ...

that pesky sense of fun has a

bit of bubbling to the top, no.

But how hard we try to be serious (And we are trying, aren't we?) which explains the fishnets,

the chandelier ear bobs. And

those fabulous, pointy shoes.

The outfit is summing up for the jury while the accessories are catching the latest Johnny Depp film.

Sensible and frivolous.

Classic and mod.

Black and fuchsia.

Put 'em together and what do you get? A long face with a twinkle in the eye. A giggle during the Bach fugue.

A whistle in the dark.

It's 1971 and we've just spotted Twiggy and some hipsters up to their usual mischief on the Portobello Road.

It's déjà vu all over again, and this time the focus is on the legs. Miniskirts straight up or with a kick-pleat, that is; boots so shiny you could navigate a tunnel and stockings whose only function is to make your gams look fab.

Black, natch, but you can color me pink, turquoise and gold, too. But keep it close to the vest. No flyaway fringes or fuzzy lace. These mods are serious, remember?

Just hug the curves and you'll stay on track.

A suit, by its very name, has to fit the age and be ageless

This year's classics suit the look and look suitable.

Sensible, single-breasted designs play on an autumnal canvas of oranges, browns, apple-greens and light grays. Time falls when you're having fun.

Thick tweed today. Drapey, soft wool tonight.

Bright, chin-up turtles at dawn. Little black bows this evening.

And there's a coat to match: monochromatic; maybe a big hip pocket or two; a long line straight to the knee; and big buttons up the front.

And, not to put too fine a point on it, here comes a pair of pointy, jaunty heels just for laughs.

Color fashion for fall with vivid crayon splashes here and there

Deep yellow and earthy mustard. Fire engine or tomato red. Pure purple or exotic emerald. Rich burgundy and cobalt blue.

Pair them with heavy doses of ever-popular black, chocolate brown or rich olive.

Designers are injecting jolts of color via accessories, instead of entire ensembles. They can add immediate dash to an otherwise monotone canvas of black or brown.

"Color is being used more as an accent than a base," said Allen Ferrell, the 2003-'04 president of Color Marketing Group. "Red is very strong."

So are hues like adobe, gold, spring grass green and yellow. He characterized them as "jewel tones, but softened."

Consider yellow, a tricky shade to position near many a skin tone. Incorporating this hue away from the face is as simple as sporting one of this season's most important accessories: gloves. They have emerged as fashion statements in such raucous shades as bright yellow, red, and green.

As they flash by positioned next to a black or brown backdrop, the overall outfit assumes a new personality.

Another nominee for color cre-

ation is the handbag. Look for an abundance of croc (crocodile). Or mock croc. It has assumed a brand new identity by parading these days in mustard, purple, green and other shades.

Colorful croc has crept into footwear, especially boots. Some are real showstoppers, with bright shades spreading from toes to above knees. Trendy thigh-high styles are communicating similarly colorful messages.

And no updated wardrobe should be without these basic pieces — a black jacket, skirt, trousers and turtleneck.

A white blouse remains a staple and will help dilute black. Or accessorize the blouse with a chunky necklace, perhaps made of crystals sparkling with majestic jewel tones. Top your look off with a pair of stylish drop earrings in a knockout color.

Follow the lead of designer Ralph Lauren, who subtly injected purple beneath dark menswear fabric by adding a lush scarf. Or

copy designer Adrienne Vittadini, who enlivened a black croc-motif jacket with a patterned red, black and white scarf.

And for true drama, imitate designer Carolina Herrera, who paired a brown fur jacket with a wide swath of ruby satin encircling the waist.

The color possibilities are nearly limitless. So alluring are the hues that it might be tempting to wear rainbow all at once. Instead, use exclamation points like red or yellow to punctuate your look.

Top tips

Listen up fellas. If you're fashion impaired, check out these do's and don'ts from Kenneth Panton, men's fashion expert and president of eCityofStyle.com. Panton also is former publisher of azuremag.com and former senior manager at P. Diddy's Notorious magazine.

Here are Panton's tips for making the most of your look this fall:

See FASHION, Page 2

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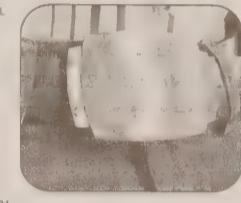
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Fall fashion (left to right and down): Leather-trimmed leanings: Harve Benard wool blend jacket with leather trim, \$94, and slit skirt, \$64 both at Kohl's Department Store, Nine West "Nimbly" slingback in brown with off-white trim, \$69 at Boston Store. **Shifting gears:** Tan corduroy drivers' cap by Sixty, \$29, long-sleeve Diesel T-shirt, \$59, and Diesel jeans, \$149, all at Detour. **Touch of class:** Black wool shift, \$148, topped by a ladylike cream coat with mother-of-pearl buttons, \$248, clutch, \$38, and pumps, \$128, all at Banana Republic. **Show your stripes:** Ben Sherman Vintage stripe shirt and tie, \$79, Ben Sherman leather jacket, \$409, all at Detour. Diesel belt: \$59, at Detour.



Benicia Old Town Theatre Group presents **BUS STOP** by William Inge. October 24th through November 15th, 2003. Opening Night \$20. 10/25 thru 11/15 \$8-\$15. Present your pre-purchased ticket (day of show) at the following restaurants for a 10% discount (food items only). Captain Blyther's (707) 745-4082 The Shoreline Restaurant (707) 745-3364 Spot Restaurant (707) 751-0779

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Fashion

FROM PAGE 1

- Do buy pointy-toed dress shoes this fall. Square-toed shoes are out.
- Do buy baggy fit, relaxed denim. No more skin-tight jeans.
- Do buy a white long-sleeved Brooks Brothers shirt. Skip the shirts with tiny polka dots.
- Do buy the striped ties, colorful. Your tie should stand out. Solid-colored ties are very last season.
- Do go with simply elegant watches. Consider the Baumeriet line.
- Don't go unshaven. Clean grooming is in.
- Do go for sophisticated eyewear. It's back, even in sunglasses. Oakleys are out.
- Do wear leather belts with casual outfits, big belt buckles in the fall — very Texas, very cowboyish. Don't wear fabric belts. They're for spring and summer.
- French cuffs are a do, for both casual and formal looks. It's a fabulous look with great shoes and jeans — understated elegance.
- Do put a splash of color in your gear, maybe wearing a chocolate brown suit paired with a seasonally colored tie.

Don't look like a funeral director by wearing too much black on black.

Honey, can I borrow this?

Once again, we look to where the boys are when it comes to updating our classics.

We have double-breasted pants suits but a little longer in the waist, a little wider in the cuffs and a little rounder in the hips, because, well, the boy thing is only style deep.

And we've got cool browns and warm chestnuts — colors from his side of the closet — but covered in cozy overcoats with straight collars that emphasize our eyes instead of his Adam's apple.

His look, her shape.

Boy, that's smart.

Family briefs

KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Lunchbox savings

Your kids' school lunches shouldn't take a bite out of your budget. To pack in the savings, consider these suggestions from "Parents" magazine:

- Buy snack-size plastic bags and fill them with pretzels, crackers or carrot sticks that you can buy in bulk.
- Use dinner leftovers for lunch. Chicken breast, for example, makes a great sandwich. Plain pasta can be tossed with dressing and mixed with veggies and turkey to create a kid-friendly salad.
- Save money on juice boxes by putting drinks in reusable bottles.
- Encourage your kids to bring home whatever they don't eat, and monitor the leftovers. If you regularly pack half a dozen cheese cubes and your child only eats three, cut back.

The state of our unions

Fewer children are living in married-couple households compared to past decades, according to a report issued by the National Marriage Project at Rutgers.

"It is not that it (marriage) is withering away for adults, but ... it is withering away as a family experience for children," said Barbara Dafoe Whitehead, co-director of the project.

Key findings from the 2003 report:

- More than a third of children are born outside of marriage.
- An estimated 40 percent of children are expected to spend some time in a cohabiting, unmarried-couple household during their childhood.
- The percentage of American children living apart from their biological fathers has doubled over the past 40 years, from 17 percent to 34 percent.

■ By 2010, the Census Bureau projects that married couples with children will account for only 20 percent of total households.

Quarreling kids

Though they may drive parents

crazy, quarreling kids are learning valuable lessons about how to get along with other people, says Anthony Wolf, author of "Morn, Jason's Breathing on Mel" (Ballantine Books, \$12.95).

Wolf's advice:

- Unless there's threat of harm, don't intervene.
- Never listen to the content of the bickering. If your child whines about his brother, respond with, "Would you like a hug?"
- Siblings can't work out solutions unless you let them — which they won't do on the basis of fairness but of real-life negotiation, often when you're not there.

The kids' schedule? Check the Web site

To help divorced families keep track of visitation and other shared scheduling responsibilities, a Minneapolis man has created a Web tool that tracks family members via color-coded calendars.

By using Ourfamilywizard.com, parents can coordinate schedules across separate households; different colors delineate days that children spend with each parent, each child's activities and which parent will drive them.

Family advocates say the Web tool can be especially helpful in early, emotional stages of divorce, when split-up families often find it hardest to communicate civily.

Forget the spare room; grandma wants a hotel

Grandparents may love to visit their grandkids, but when it comes to overnight stays, they'd rather sleep somewhere else.

According to a survey by Canfieldwood Suites, a nationwide hotel chain, more than two-thirds of grandparents said they would rather stay in a hotel than with their grandkids. Most said they would prefer a hotel because they want more privacy. 31 percent said there isn't enough space at their grandkids house.

Other highlights from the survey:

- 27 percent of grandparents said they have stayed at their grandkids' house just because they would feel guilty staying at a hotel.
- 41 percent said their ideal visit

is just for a weekend. ■ Six people said they parachute out of an airplane stay with their grandkids.

Hot-button issues

What do couples with disagreeable about most? According to a Parenting.com poll, it's techniques. Forty-two respondents said they argue about how to discipline their children. Other top responses were staying with the house in order (32 percent), with a routine (16 percent), safety concerns (10 percent).

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Rapunzel, Rapunzel, donate your hair

About 2 million children in the United States suffer from alopecia, a disease which results in long-term hair loss and can have a devastating impact on a young confidence and self-esteem.

To raise awareness of the ease, the Matrix haircare company has partnered with Locks of Love to launch the "Matrix Search for Rapunzel," a search for America's longest locks and biggest hair.

To enter, submit a photo of your hair along with a typed word essay that explains why you would like to donate your hair.

Locks of Love. The grand-prize winner will receive a trip for two to New York City, tickets to the musical "Hairspray" and a makeover by the Matrix Team.

Hair must measure at least 12 inches from base of ponytail tip and can be colored or powdered but not chemically dyed. An entry form, go online at www.matrix.com.

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Compiled by Suzanne Pavia, bias of The Wichita Eagle

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NAPS

Peanuts and peanut butter can be useful ingredients in the kitchen, especially thanks to their versatile sauce-making capabilities.

Chef Mai Pham, owner of the nationally acclaimed Lemon Grass Restaurant in Sacramento, Calif., uses peanuts extensively in her kitchen to add robust flavors to her traditional Southeast Asian recipes. The National Peanut Board and America's peanut farmers invite you to take a refreshing dip or just get saucy with Chef Pham's Simple Thai Peanut Sauce.

SIMPLE THAI PEANUT SAUCE

1 tablespoon vegetable oil
1/2 teaspoon minced garlic
1/2 teaspoon minced shallots
1/2 teaspoon cayenne powder
1/2 teaspoon curry powder or to taste
1 tablespoon soy sauce
2/3 cup milk
1/4 cup water
1 tablespoon sugar
1/4 cup creamy peanut butter
1/4 teaspoon lime juice
Heat the oil in a saucepan over low heat. Add the garlic, shallots,

cayenne powder and curry powder. (Do not allow the spices to burn.) Stir for 5 seconds until fragrant, then add the soy sauce, milk, water, sugar and peanut butter.

While stirring occasionally, sim-

mer for about 5 minutes. Add the lime juice and remove from heat. Check for a nice balance of salty, sweet, sour and spicy flavors. Serve immediately. Makes about 1 cup and serves 8.

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FAMILY BRIEFS

Give girls a block party

KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Classic wooden blocks help preschoolers build a surprising number of skills. But research shows that boys play with blocks more than girls do — and they have more advanced spatial skills than girls the same age.

Parents magazine offers these suggestions for encouraging girls to be builders, too:

- Store blocks within easy reach in a clear container rather than in the original box, which is likely to have a picture of a boy on it.

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small figures, animals and dollhouse furniture.

■ If she shows no interest in using her blocks, just bring a tower in front of her. Chances are, she'll join in.

■ Consider buying blocks that come in a variety of colors.

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Flooring considerations

BY G. F. CHASTAIN

MORNING CALL NEWSPAPERS

I have finally decided to replace some of the floors in my home and wondered what you tell me about different kinds of flooring?

Terrazzo: There are many common types of flooring other than wood including vinyl composition, asphalt, linoleum, terrazzo, slate, quarry stone and glazed ceramic tile.

Choosing the right flooring for your home requires several considerations. What style home? What look? How many people will use it? How active are they? How much effort and money are you willing to expend to keep the floor? What is it supposed to look? How much money are you investing in flooring?

VCT (Vinyl Composition Tile): Tiles come in 12 square inch tiles and are stain-resistant, resilient and more durable than asphalt tile because of the type of floor and color pigments used with vinyl resin used as the base. Make sure no one scrubs the tile at least five days after installation.

Asphalt tiles come in nine sizes and in a grade designed as "greaseproof." Be careful — avoid oil and solvents on all types of asphalt tiles. If you have to strip the floor remember solvent strippers can bleach the floor. You can be sure that there are no coats of finish on the floor if the tile from being damaged has been buffed or "burnished."

Marble: Marble is not used because it is hard, durable and impervious to wear. You don't install and forget this flooring. Even if you leave it natural without a high polish, you must be aware that it is susceptible to acid that are contained in many carpet cleaners and other cleaners. Foot traffic is harder on black marble especially in sandy soil areas because it can be easily scratched — and spill anything on it and it is absorbed before you can stop it. Unless you go "Euro" and let it just be natural and let it show the baking dish.

Slate: This hard, fine-grained, rock comes with a tough surface. The natural semi-smooth layers can give way to heavy traffic patterns and scrub brushes that can smooth it out.

Quarry tile: This ceramic tile is a mixture of clay and water shaped and fired at high temperatures. It will require a floor finish and a sealer. If you decide to put it in your kitchen, don't coat it.

Unfinished ceramic: This too will require a sealer coat especially to avoid discoloring spots.

If you have a question on cleaning or restoration of a home, e-mail G. F. Chastain at gandolf108@yahoo.com.

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Bake a classic breakfast

NAPS!

On a day when you have extra time, make a long-time favorite breakfast recipe for your family.

Hearty Breakfast Bake is characteristic of a classic bake, incorporating eggs, potatoes and cheese.

HEARTY BREAKFAST BAKE

1 package (12 ounces) bulk pork sausage

2 medium green onions, thinly sliced OR 1/3 cup chopped green or red bell pepper

5 eggs

Heat oven to 400 degrees.

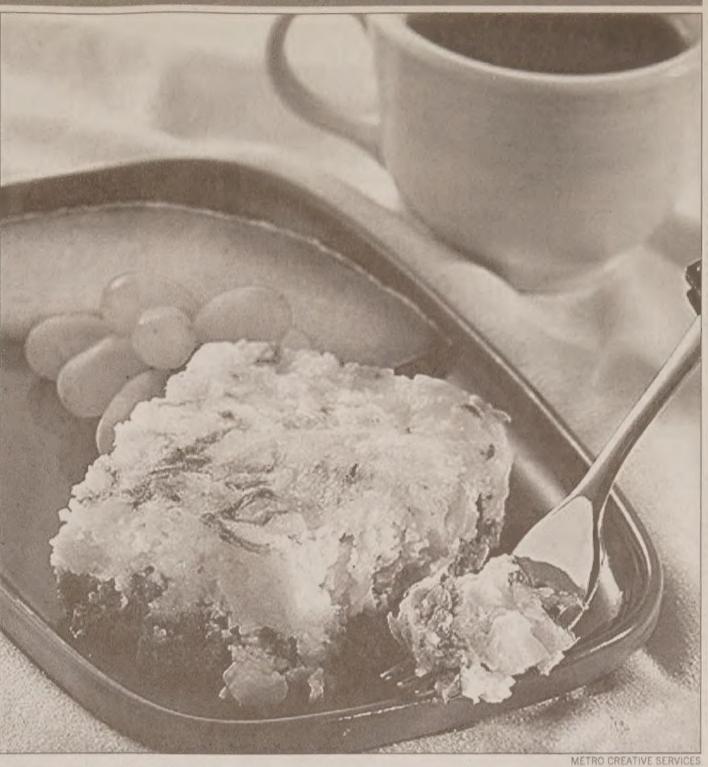
Spray with cooking spray or grease 13x9-inch baking dish. Cook sausage in 10-inch skillet over medium-high heat, stirring frequently, until no longer pink; drain.

Layer sausage, onions, potatoes and cheese in baking dish. Stir remaining ingredients in large bowl until blended. Pour over ingredients in baking dish.

Bake uncovered 35 to 40 minutes or until knife inserted in center comes out clean. Let stand 5 minutes.

Prep time: 20 minutes, bake time: 40 minutes, stand time: 5 minutes. Makes 12 servings.

This recipe is simplified by using



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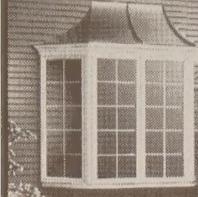
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